

# THE GATEWAY

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## Bush governs via fear: Lapham

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
News Writer

Declaring a war on terror is like declaring a war on lust, argued Lewis Lapham, editor of *Harper's* magazine, to a crowd of nearly 700 student journalists and Edmontonians last Friday.

"You can't declare a war on an abstract noun," he pointed out, gesturing in his signature three-piece pinstriped suit.

But despite his humour, Lapham spoke earnestly last Friday about his views on censorship of political thought and the fear mongering that has gripped the United States since 11 September, 2001.

Lapham's lecture was part of the Students' Union's third annual Revolutionary Speakers Series, which partnered with the 67th annual Canadian University Press national conference, where he denounced the idea that Americans "are the chosen people and therefore [they] can do no wrong."

**"Since 11 September, no week has passed at which the government failed to issue warnings of a sequel."**

LEWIS LAPHAM,  
EDITOR OF *HARPER'S*

"The Bush administration has employed what I would consider to be a policy of fear," he said.

According to Lapham, while the War on Terror is premised on the rejection of fear, the government consistently uses fear tactics to maintain support for its policies.

"Because where else does the Bush administration ask the American people to live except in fear? On what other grounds does [the administration] justify its destruction of the nation's civil liberties?" Lapham asked.

"Since 11 September, no week has passed at which the government failed to issue warnings of a sequel," he added.

He said that regardless of who issues the warnings—the FBI, the CIA, or the Department of Homeland Security—they're always the same.

PLEASE SEE LAPHAM • PAGE 2



MATT FREHNER

**SINGING IT LOUD** Les Tabernacles performed Saturday 22 January at the Powerplant for Canadian University Press' national conference wrap-up party.

## Prince of Swaziland to kick off the University's annual International Week

KARI CHAN  
News Writer

A procession of Hula-Hoopers, spinners and drummers will make its way through campus on Friday to kick-start this year's International Week, which will focus on the problem of poverty.

The program will feature over 50 free events revolving around this year's theme: Making Poverty History.

"[International Week] is an opportunity for people to learn about world poverty [and how] it is being tackled by the international community," explained Daniela Sanhueza, International Week volunteer coordinator.

"We live in a globalized world and I think that it is naïve to assume that you can just get by in this world just knowing your surroundings and being comfortable with that. I think part of our development is understanding other people and understanding how we are all connected to one another."

International Week programmer Solene Chang also stressed the importance of internationalism.

"It's important because we live in a very privileged part of the world and if we don't have that kind of exposure, sometimes we forget how privileged we are," she said.

PLEASE SEE INT'L WEEK • PAGE 2

## Healthcare research gets funding boost

ANTONINO ANGHELONE  
News Writer

Last week, the Alberta government injected \$500 million into the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research endowment to help improve healthcare in Alberta.

The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) has been funding research in Alberta for 25 years and supports biomedical and health research at Alberta universities, affiliated institutions and other medical- and technology-related institutions. AHFMR funds 200 senior researchers and 350 researchers in training—including many U of A scientists.

Premier Klein announced the money will help improve Alberta's healthcare using the "Third Way aims." According to Klein, the Third Way aims to adopt the best approaches to healthcare from Alberta, Canada, the US, and Europe to create the best system for Albertans.

"The \$500 million was to be added to the endowment for the [AHFMR] and the funds it produces are purely for medical research," said David Dear, spokesperson for Alberta Health and Wellness.

PLEASE SEE HEALTHCARE • PAGE 2



MATT FREHNER

**WORKING TOGETHER** International Week volunteers help with preparations.

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## Masterful Mascots

Defying spiritless students, excited kids, and stifling heat, GUBA and Patches cheer on the U of A.

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## Esteves vs Bourgeois

Can the return of Cigarro & Cerveja defeat Robo-Nietzsche in a battle for the comics page?

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## THE GATEWAY

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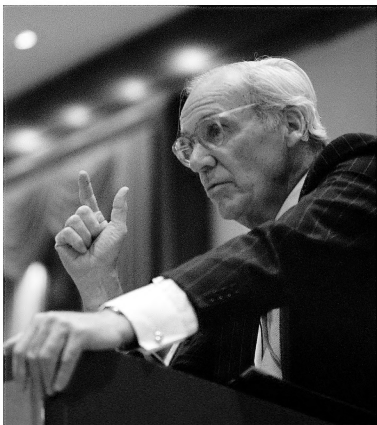
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Umax Powerlook 1500 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon  
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FREEDOM IS IN THE MIND Lewis Lapham lectured an intent audience Friday.

## US will not find freedom through war: Lapham

LAPHAM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's always the same message: 'Suspect your neighbour and watch the sky, buy duct tape, avoid the Washington monument, and hide the children,'" he said, referring to his belief that the Bush administration is using these warnings to raise support for its actions in Iraq and elsewhere.

Lapham saw this first-hand when he visited Washington, DC for the presidential inauguration. He described it as a disheartening experience due to the militarized atmosphere that had fallen over the city, and recalled the rigid security measures that prevented children in marching bands from looking at the president during the presidential inauguration and using the bathroom without escorts. These measures, in his view, are far from reasonable precautions.

"The last place that I would ever get a sense of America the land of the free, the home of the brave is Washington, DC. I could not wait to get away from that place," he said.

"And I [though] to myself, okay, the United States has lost the War on Terrorism."

However, Lapham didn't target Bush's government as the sole American administration guilty of misleading its citizens and exaggerat-

ing the threat of foreign hostility.

"We have been through this gag-rule-type situation before. We went through it with the McCarthy hearings, we went through it with the Spanish-American war, World War I, and, of course, during the long siege of the Cold War," Lapham said.

**"The last place that I would ever get a sense of America the land of the free, the home of the brave is Washington, DC. I could not wait to get away from that place."**

LEWIS LAPHAM,  
EDITOR OF HARPER'S

But along with his concerns, Lapham also shared his hope and belief that the American people will find freedom not through war but rather by taking the initiative to "leave voluntarily from the herd."

"We can all do that, and to me that is freedom; freedom is the freedom in the mind."

## Biomedical and clinical sciences in line for research funding

HEALTHCARE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It was a way of making a long-term benefit to the healthcare system."

According to Dear, the government believes research investments benefit patients, as research develops new ways of providing care.

He cited the development of the Edmonton Protocol, a method of islet cell transplantation for diabetes, as one example.

AFIRM President and CEO Dr Kevin Keough said he couldn't comment on the motives behind the fund injection, but mentioned a couple of possible factors, the first being the success the foundation has experienced in the past.

"It's a reflection of the success of the foundation over the last 25 years in terms of how much the original investment has meant to the development of health research in Alberta and health research in the country," he explained.

Keough wouldn't specify how the money will be distributed, but said a strategic planning exercise will determine how to shape the foundation over the next decade. The planning will take six to nine months to complete, he added.

"I believe the investments in the past have been really productive and good. We have to ask ourselves, do we continue to do these things solely, or do we also look to additional, new things?" said Keough.

He mentioned preventative care, healthcare, and new developments in basic biomedical sciences and clinical sciences as some general areas of interest the strategic planning exercise will review.

University of Alberta Vice-President (Research) Dr Gary Kachanoski agreed that the reason for the added

funding is due to the success the foundation has had improving healthcare in Alberta in the past.

However, Kachanoski couldn't detail how the money would be distributed either. He said it would fund the continuation of existing programs in addition to some new initiatives. The response to an international review will also influence where the money goes.

**"I believe the investments in the past have been really productive and good. We have to ask ourselves, do we continue to do these things solely, or do we also look to additional, new things?"**

KEVIN KEOUGH,  
CEO AND PRESIDENT,  
ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR  
MEDICAL RESEARCH

Kachanoski added that much of this money will help develop the careers of both young and senior scientists. Adding to the foundation's endowment also means more funding for professors to do medical research, he said.

"Multiply that money up with respect to the students they teach, the external research money they get at the national and international level, so there's a tremendous multiplying effect for that investment," said Kachanoski.

## Int'l Week to focus on poverty

INTLWEEK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

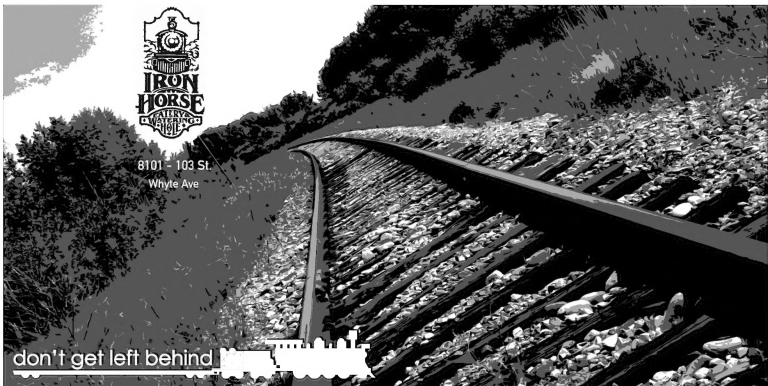
The conference will feature a number of evening keynote addresses, including a Tuesday night talk by Dr Karen Brown, who co-authored the UN Millennium Project Task Force in Education and Gender Equality, on the International Centre for Research on Women, and a Wednesday session addressing strategies for reducing poverty in indigenous communities worldwide.

Additionally, Cedza Dlamini will highlight the issues surrounding poverty in his keynote address. Among his lengthy credentials, he is the Prince of Swaziland, grandson of Nelson

Mandela and a UN Youth Ambassador. His speech, entitled Youth Making Poverty History, will be held at the Horowitz Theatre on Monday, 31 January.

"He will speak to us [from] the youth perspective. The issue of poverty is so huge it is overwhelming sometimes, and to think of us being able to do something about it seems, to many, as naïve. He has some great ideas on why we can make a difference as young people and how we can make a difference," said Sanhueza.

International Week will wrap up on Friday, 4 February with a multicultural concert at the Horowitz Theatre.



## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Iris Tse and Matt Frehner

International Week  
started yesterday at the  
U of A.

Are you planning on  
attending any of the  
International Week  
events?



James Catterall  
Science I

I've heard a little about it, but I don't  
really know too much. I wasn't really too  
aware of the events that might be going  
on.



Krista Hudson  
Fine Arts I

Maybe if I knew exactly what it was  
then maybe I'd be more interested in it.  
Because I'm definitely interested in the  
subject, but I didn't have any idea what  
it was.



Amber Gibson  
Education IV

Probably not; I'm too crazy busy with  
school stuff.



Marcus Hoyda  
Arts IV

Yeah, I'm going to try. I think the keynote  
[by Prince Cedza Dlamini] will be inter-  
esting to hear. I think he'd offer a lot of  
really good insights.



NICK WEBER

**REVEALING LIES?** Scott Taylor rebukes casualty claims in Belgrade, Baghdad.

## War veteran accuses media of furthering lies

ERIK JACOBS  
News Writer

Miscommunication and outright lies  
tainted the media's coverage of both  
Iraq and Kosovo, argued Scott Taylor,  
a veteran of the Canadian military and  
editor of *Esprit de Corps*, the maga-  
zine of the Canadian military.

Taylor, who spoke Tuesday, 18  
January at ETLC made his case in a  
presentation entitled "From Belgrade to  
Baghdad: How Mistakes in the  
Balkans Led to Disaster in Iraq," focus-  
ing on the two wars and the misinfor-  
mation that followed.

"People like Madeline Albright were  
claiming 100 000 people were killed  
in Kosovo," Taylor said.

In actuality, Taylor explained only  
about 2000 Serbs and Albanians, most  
of them fighters, were killed.  
"The effectiveness of the bombing  
campaign was similarly exaggerated.  
Despite claims of massive damage  
to the Serbian army, relatively little  
damage was done in actuality.

"The Americans spent \$13 billion to  
destroy 13 tanks. That's \$1 billion a  
tank," Taylor said.

Taylor also sharply criticized the  
occupation of Kosovo after the bomb-  
ing campaign.

"[Serbian refugees] were dragged  
from their cars and beaten while  
NATO troops looked on," he said of  
NATO's failure to protect Serbian civi-  
lians in Kosovo.

"All the king's horses and all  
the king's men couldn't make the  
Albanians and Serbs like each other."

Shifting to the post-11 September  
era, Taylor accused the Americans of  
arrogance in their invasion of Iraq.

"We told the Americans that if you  
go that way, you're going over a cliff.  
They went that way, they went over  
the cliff, they're burning, and they're  
asking us to get in the front seat," said  
Taylor.

"[The Pentagon] said we'd be out  
of there in six months. That was what  
their war planning was based on."

Taylor also noted that morale has  
been slipping.

Despite the fact that the US armed  
forces voted four to one for the  
Republicans, many soldiers in Iraq  
are getting frustrated, especially those

who had their tours extended.

Additionally, US efforts to train a  
new Iraqi army and police have had  
little success. Half of the police force  
is considered unreliable; 40 per cent  
deserted and another ten per cent  
turned on the Americans. Taylor also  
described how six heavily armed  
police stations in the city of Mosul  
were overrun with hardly a shot  
fired.

Taylor was highly critical of the  
media for not properly reporting the  
failures in Kosovo and Iraq. He said  
although outright censorship is rare,  
distortion is not.

Taylor related one incident in which  
a copy editor changed a story he  
had written about an atrocity com-  
mitted by Albanian rebels' allies in  
Macedonia.

"[The copy editor] switched it,  
because he knew from what he'd read  
about Kosovo that it was the Albanians  
who were the victims, so he changed  
it to a Macedonian atrocity."

The structure of the media itself  
can be a detriment to discovering the  
truth in a conflict, Taylor said.

"They pay the money for the  
airfare, they pay the person to go over  
there, they pay for the satellite phone  
at ten bucks a minute for them ...  
they'd better have a story," he said.

"You can't get in there and say,  
'Listen, I'm going to look around for a  
couple weeks, get the feel of things,'"  
he said, noting journalists often end  
up repeating what other major news  
outlets are saying rather than doing  
their own research.

Taylor stressed the necessity of  
learning the truth about past mistakes  
and failures so that we may learn from  
them in the future.

"Nobody wants to go back and look  
at the mistake that Kosovo was," he  
said.

Falling this kind of self-criticism,  
Taylor predicted dire consequences for  
the US.

"We may be seeing the beginning  
of the end of the American empire,"  
he said.

Ultimately, Taylor said that it is up to  
the public to demand the truth.

"People have to be questioning,  
should be questioning, what is hap-  
pening," he said.

## Campus Nightlife



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### Margins of Sound Mondays w/ DJ Baggy and Pote - 1

instrumental hip hop/trip hop/downtempo/dub/reg-  
gae. Free CD \$ by new artists courtesy of Universal  
Music. Jan 31st - The Rumours

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Monday January 31, 2005

12-1 pm

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For more information call 492-5681 or email ccs@law.ualberta.ca

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[www.oxfordseminars.com](http://www.oxfordseminars.com)**Students beaten in  
York University protest**MARYAM BEHMARD  
*Excalibur*

TORONTO (CUP)—Two students were badly beaten by police after they refused to leave an anti-imperialist demonstration in York University's Vari Hall, where protest is forbidden.

Five people were arrested and taken to Toronto police's 31st division after participating in the rally, which was held in protest of the inauguration of United States President George W. Bush and the University's corporate ties.

Police allegedly beat PhD student Gregory Bird with a baton, while political science student Nicholas Birrig was taken to hospital due to beatings he allegedly received from police in a holding room after the rally on 20 January.

Konstantine Kilibarda, an academic researcher from Cambridge University, was arrested and detained with four other students and said he witnessed the alleged beating of Birrig by the police.

"They started hitting him repeatedly and when he lifted his head, it was just covered in blood. The group was pretty roughed up," said Kilibarda.

"In addition, I was tackled from behind by an officer and brought to the ground. I didn't resist—I just went limp."

Constable Isabelle Cotton, spokesperson for the police division, said a struggle in Vari Hall between one student and police led to the student allegedly attempting to reach for an officer's handgun.

"They will be processed and charged for trespassing, assault, and obstruction—those are the charges we are looking at," said Cotton.

"When you try to steal an officer's gun, it's pretty major."

Toronto police also allege two officers were punched in the face and one officer had a hot beverage thrown in his face. But Cotton confirmed no officers received bruises or injuries.

The administration released a notice 21 January stating the protesters became violent, endangering the safety of students and disrupting classes.

Students are prohibited from holding demonstrations in Vari Hall because of its proximity to classrooms. Nancy White, university spokesperson, said York security asked the protesters to leave numerous times and to refrain from using a megaphone after receiving complaints from faculty members who were teaching in Vari Hall classrooms.

"It's very unfortunate that these individuals became involved in a violent altercation with the police," said White.

"The University will do what it can to accommodate students who wish to engage in peaceful protests. We are always open to dialogue."

Gary Brewer, York's vice-president of finance and administration, said the school has never restricted free speech, but those who want to carry out demonstrations must do so in designated areas that will not disrupt classes.

Another demonstration was held 21 January, criticizing the administration for calling the police to come and intervene at the previous day's protest.

Nick Lary, professor of humanities and vice-president of the York University Faculty Association, maintained Vari Hall should be a space where students can voice their opinions.

"Students are citizens and have civil liberties. They are our future teachers, leaders and defenders," Lary told the crowd.

"We call on president Marsden to make Vari Hall a public space dedicated to free speech."

The president of the York Federation of Students, Omari Mason, has called for the dismissal of all criminal charges against the five students, the establishment of an external inquiry into the police's intervention, and disciplinary action against security personnel and administrators in charge of security.

**Staff at OUC join colleges in  
rotating strike**JONATHAN WOODWARD  
*British Columbia Bureau Chief*

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Okanagan University College (OUC) support staff have joined striking unions from five other British Columbia colleges, putting up a rotating picket that shut down its campuses for one day.

This is one of several strikes over the last two weeks that cancelled classes at Douglas College, Northern Lights College, Northwest Community College, Kwantlen University College and the BC Institute of Technology.

"No one's excited to miss a day of school with essays due and deadlines, but students understand why it's necessary," said Shayne Robinson, president of the Okanagan University College Student Union.

Negotiations between the OUC administration and the BC Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) broke down on 17 December. Last week, 500 staff at eleven OUC campuses—including over 200 students working as teaching or library assistants—voted 77 per cent in favour of a strike.

Wages are the main issue in the dispute as the BCGEU, which administers unions at each campus, says members haven't had a wage increase in

over five years. The colleges say they can't increase wages without a change to the BC government's "zero, zero, zero" policy on public-sector wage increases.

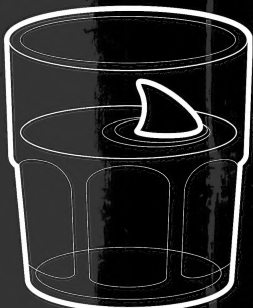
"They deserve a fair wage offer that at least allows them to keep up with inflation," stated BCGEU President George Heyman.

Currently, support workers make between \$17 and \$20 per hour, and TAs make \$10.51 per hour.

Labour Ministry spokesperson Graham Currie said the government's position—one of watching and waiting—had not changed in the two weeks since the strike began.

"It's regrettable that students are being impacted, but we encourage them to get back to the bargaining table," he said.

When striking staff threatened OUC students' graduation three years ago, the government legislated staff back to work. But "it's way too soon for government intervention," said Currie. Former finance minister Gary Collins said in December that in the next round of negotiations the freeze would be lifted, but this wouldn't come into effect until 2006. The new minister, Glen Hansen, holds the same position, according to spokesperson Rob Duffus.

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The University of Alberta's 20th

# INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2005

January 28 – February 4

## Making Poverty

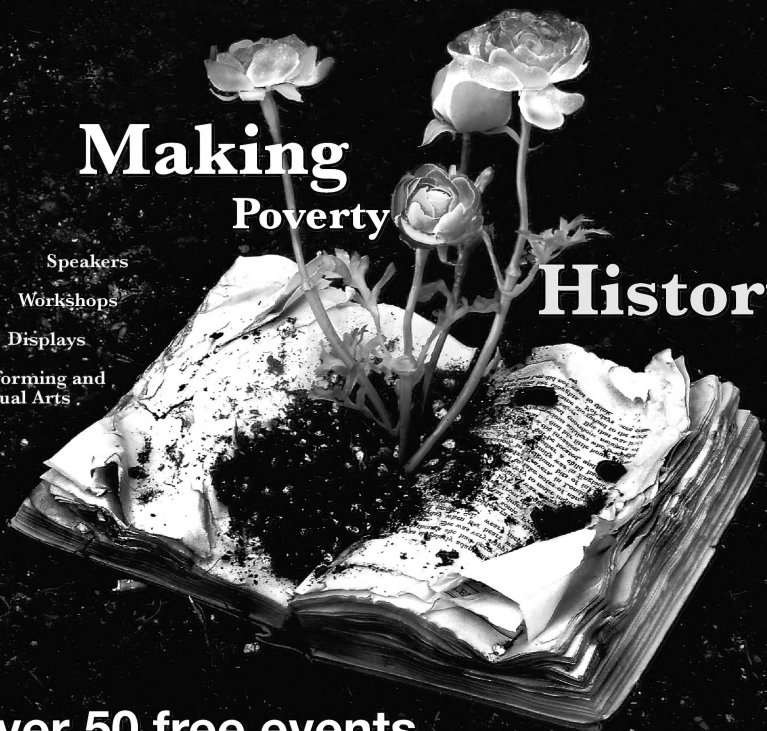
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**Achieving the Millennium Development Goals**



The University of Alberta's 20th

# INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2005

**Making  
Poverty History**

January 28 – February 4



## INTERNATIONAL WEEK KEYNOTE

### YOUTH MAKING POVERTY HISTORY

Cedza Diamini, Prince of Swaziland, grandson of Nelson Mandela and UN Youth Ambassador on the Millennium Development Goals

**Monday, January 31, 12:00 – 1:30 pm**

**Myer Horowitz Theatre, SUB**

## KEYNOTES

**Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex 3 7:30 – 9:30 pm**



**Monday, January 31**

### CANADA'S ROLE IN POVERTY ERADICATION

**Paul Boothe**, Associate Deputy  
Minister, Finance Canada

**David Morley**, Executive Director,  
Médecins sans Frontières

**Neil Chrimes**, Counsellor,  
British High Commission



**Wednesday, February 2**

### OPENING OUR EYES:

Strategies to Reduce Poverty  
in Indigenous Communities

**Dr. Herb Belcourt**, Canative Housing Corporation

**Dr. Tania Ka'ai**, Dean, Te Tumu, School of Maori,  
Pacific & Indigenous Studies, University of Otago,  
New Zealand

**Sandra Woitas**, Coordinator,  
Edmonton City Centre Education Project



**Tuesday, February 1**

### TAKING ACTION:

Achieving the Millennium  
Development Goals  
of Poverty Reduction,  
Gender Equality and  
Women's Empowerment

**Dr. Caren A. Grown**,  
International Center  
for Research on Women,  
Washington



**Thursday, February 3**

### Impoverishment of Human and Physical Capital:

Measuring Declines and Legislative  
Needs for Achieving the  
Millennium Development Goals

**Dr. William E. Rees**,  
University of British Columbia

**Dr. Laura Westra**,  
University of Windsor



[www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek](http://www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek)

The University of Alberta's 20th

# INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2005

January 28 – February 4

## OPENING CEREMONIES

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U.N.T.

## Millennium Development GOALS



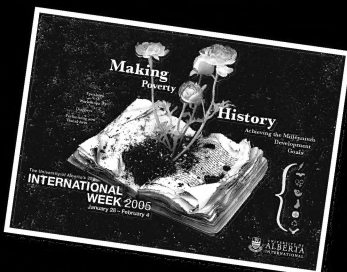
Goals and Targets: The Millennium Development Goals are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives, agreed on by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals)

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# WORLD WARRIORS

Friday, February 4

7:30 pm, Myer Horowitz Theatre SUB

## Maori



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# INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2005



# PINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • Thursday, 27 January 2005

## Health plan is something the SU can do right

EVERY YEAR, WITHOUT FAIL, tuition increases. Occasionally we students get lucky and the Board of Governors is benevolent enough to give us less than the full allowable increase, but usually—in the case of the last 24 years, anyway—tuition heads right on up.

Given that, especially over the last few years, our Students' Union's main mission has ostensibly been to reduce tuition, there has been a lot of talk—from students, from this paper, even occasionally from people running for SU jobs—about the ineffectiveness of the SU as a whole. And while that talk isn't entirely unjustified, occasionally the SU steps up and proves that there's still a little life in the old girl after all.

The most recent example of this is the proposed health plan proposed by members of the Executive. The plan, though it still has to go through referendum, would provide students with things like prescription drug coverage, eye exams, out-of-province medical costs and a few other carrots for just under \$150 a year. It might not mean much to those of us still under our parents' plans, but this could potentially save both a lot of money and a lot of headaches for students who are no longer covered under the Alberta health plan—including, no doubt, a fair number of international students who were just hit with a sizeable tuition increase.

This is just one example, though; over the last few years, the SU has managed to pull off several other fairly useful non-tuition-related initiatives. Two years ago, for example, tuition went up as it always did, but the Exec managed to get the add/drop deadline extended by another week. Granted, we all had to pay more the next year, but I for one have used that little extension at least once every semester since, and it's probably saved me a couple hundred dollars in withdrawal fees, if nothing else.

Things like the health plan and the add/drop deadline extension are tangible things that the SU can and does affect, which is much more than can be said for the yearly tuition fight. Granted, there are missteps on this little trail every so often—such as last year, when they locked themselves into a U-Pass price that Edmonton Transit refuses to negotiate—but by and large, these little things are what make annual tuition increases a little easier for students to swallow, whether or not they realize it.

I'm not suggesting we should give up the tuition battle entirely, especially given that the provincial government is nearly debt free and has talked repeatedly about putting more funding into postsecondary. But still, that talk could easily be nothing but lip service, and with recent history as a guide, the SU would be wise to look at what it can and cannot do, and focus on its strengths. In the end, it will be things like the health plan that will save the SU from obscurity.

DAVID BERRY  
Opinion Editor

## Bert isn't dead and Ernie isn't either

IT HAS COME to my attention that people are extensively glibbie. They seem to believe anything they hear.

This became abundantly clear to me when two separate Gateway writers made the incorrect assumption that Bert of Seaweed Street fame was killed off in a car accident to ward off intolerant parents who thought that Ernie and Bert were gay.

This is only one of the many nuggets of untruth which seem to float around the collective unconscious without a cause. Honestly people, if you hear a rumour that Mr Bean is dead or that Marilyn Manson has removed some of his ribs to aid in his effort to auto-fellate, please let your first instinct be to question why you heard this from your skuzzy cousin Biddy and not from, you know, CNN or at least Macbidis.

Seriously, things like our favourite bottle cap collector Bert biting it are newsworthy, but if it sounds too wacky to be true it probably isn't.

DANIEL KASZOR  
Production Editor

## LETTERS

### Gateway writers ignore University events, only out for shock

I was disappointed after reading the 20 January issue of the Gateway, which included a highly topical and original article on why, in the definitive wisdom of Scott C Bourgeois, there for sure aren't any WMDs ("Surprise—there's no WMDs"). Not to mention the delightful Haley's Comic, featuring a hilariously pained Christ on the cross spouting Garfield quotations. It was at this moment I came to the realization that the Gateway has effectively become the newspaper equivalent of that guy in high school with tons of piercings who smugly wore "Babies taste like chicken" T-shirts and said all kinds of "crazy" things to make you roll your eyes: none too bright, and at school only for the shock value.

I assumed that after the Gateway attained autonomy a few years ago censorship from the SU would stop and a more insightful look at the practical aspects of university life could take place. It would seem now, in retrospect, that the SU played a huge role in quality control of the paper. Ironically, criticism of the SU is almost non-existent; in my first year, I was much better versed in the goings-on of my campus than I am now.

Instead of scathing articles about University policy, readers are offered all the many reasons Scott Bourgeois just loves being in arts ("I just don't want to be an engineer," '88 September, 2004) and endless provocative articles from Dave Berry, seemingly constructed for the sole purpose of inciting emotion and reaction. Out of the eight opinion articles in the 20 January issue, only one article, Kirk Zernbal's commentary on student alienation ("You know, a little emotion isn't such a bad thing," had any direct relevance to the student body. Exploring world issues is fine, but is only useful if the writer can offer an angle fresh and different from that of larger papers.

Furthermore, I have been startled at the unprecedented amount of controversial religious references made throughout the year, but there has not been one really objective, researched article on the subject. I would recall a few years back when journalistic research was part and parcel of writing an opinion article, for example, former writer Iva Cheung. Contrary, offensive material even smut is only valuable when there is a meaningful purpose behind it.

If I wanted to read about the politics of the US and gay marriage, I'd pick up the Journal or go to CBC.com. The Gateway is supposed to be a student's newspaper, and while not vehemently against the authority of the University government, at least avidly investigating its internal affairs. It would seem that these days the Gateway is more concerned with executing shock tactics to make 16-year-old boys laugh than reporting on the plethora of political and social issues surrounding our University.

JANELLE WEED  
Arts IV



### Ostad's article 'hate propagation'

After reading Ramin Ostad's opinion piece (of trash) in the 18 January Gateway ("It's about time to get over gay marriage"), two questions immediately rose to mind. Directly to Ramin: who, sir, do you think you are? To the Gateway staff: how is it that such hateful literature is seen fit to make print in a university publication? Despite my own, admittedly conservative beliefs, I do not wish to make this letter a presentation of my "side's" case against same-sex marriage. In my years of university I have come to realize one can't change peoples' minds with a letter to the editor. In fact, even with the most tact, one will probably only inflame and strengthen the beliefs of those whose values differ.

The first of my complaints with Ostad is his statement that "we" should get over it; quite hilarious since he is obviously not. Why exactly should we get over something we consider an attack on our lives, faith, and society? Oh, right, because we are "Christian extremist homophobes" that "blame AIDS on gays" and confuse the same-sex marriage issue with bestiality. It must be the "shackles of our religion" that keep us ignorant.

No doubt my sarcasm is lost on many, but also included were some very evidently uniformed and vague historical references of no relevance and some extremely malicious, mocking comments about the holy sacraments, which Christians hold very, very deep, as was the intent, I am certain. The only thing noticeably absent from his spew was any serious argument as to why same-sex marriage should be allowed.

Summarily, Ostad's article was not an opinion; it was hate propagation. Even within the confines of what I assume to be a preposterously and exclusively liberal club, the Gateway must recognize hatred when you see it, do you not? This is supposed to be an institu-

tion breeding the greatest minds of all time. Heaven help us if not, as clearly we are living in the most critical and exciting time ever. Is Ostad's drivel representative of the student body? I pray not.

MIKHAEL HORVATH  
Mechanical Engineering V

### Stop crying about Zoom Media

To Paul Knytl ("You should vandalize Zoom Media ads," 20 January) and all those who are crying themselves to sleep at night because they are truly convinced that Zoom Media's intentions are to make their lives a living hell with their "invasive and shameless" ads: shut up and get over it, you whiny, overly sensitive freaks. They're just ads!

Who spends enough time on the toilet to ponder how he or she has been wronged by a bunch of posters anyway? They sure beat tiles, I think.

VICKY YUONG  
Science II

### Will there be more stories like Paul Owen's?

I am writing in response to Paul Owen's article in the Gateway on 18 January, "Adoption could save a life—like mine." In this article, Paul presents adoption as an alternative to abortion, and goes on to explain that he represents this alternative for a personal reason: if his mother would have chosen abortion, and not given Paul up for adoption, Paul would not be alive right now.

With that said, I don't want to start the abortion debate. But I do want to ask the question: as society progresses further and further into the future, where abortion is a perfectly valid form of "family planning," are we going to hear more stories like Paul's? Stories about how people have been fortunate "survivors" of abortion because of the simple fact

that their mother chose life—the baby's life in the womb—over the alternative of abortion? I am a 21-year-old student here at the University and have three beautiful daughters ranging in age from three years to two months. When my children get to be of university age, are they going to see themselves as "survivors" when my wife and I tell them that we decided to drive by Edmonton's Abortion Clinic instead of going inside?

JEAN-PAUL MAHE  
Education III


### U of A Bookstore rips off students

This letter concerns one of the largest screwjobs we students face on campus: the U of A Bookstore. Recently, I checked the price of a zoology textbook at the Bookstore and found it to be \$167.95. I searched in vain for used or older editions, but found none. On a whim, I checked online at Chapters and the book was \$118.26! And that included shipping. Why is there almost a \$50 difference? Why does the Bookstore feel the need to gouge students who already have high costs for tuition and living expenses?

As part of an educational institution, the Bookstore should be trying to help students. We already have to put up with shit like publishers changing the editions halfway through full-year courses with no major revisions, while the professors say we need the new one. I'm not saying that the Bookstore shouldn't make a profit; I just think that their markup may be a little high. That \$50 could go a long way to a bus pass, printer ink, or any other item a student needs. In one week I'll get my textbook, and I'll never again buy one from the Bookstore which insists on ripping off already financially burdened students.

RR NICHOL  
Science IV

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 6



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MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### Peppin should read Kant

Without addressing the woeful inadequacies of Tim Peppin's formulation of the way to scientific knowledge ("Only science can give us the real truth," 20 January), I should like merely to point out that he has completely ignored the "third way" to knowledge other than rational dogma and empirically grounded knowledge.

Had Mr Peppin taken the time to survey philosophy even a few decades past Hume in preparation for his outrageous article, he would know that Kant had successfully devised a third way to knowledge using the transcendental method. As Kant argues in his *Critique of Pure Reason*, we have knowledge that is neither derived entirely from experience nor grounded purely in abstract reason: we have a priori knowledge concerning the conditions which make human experience—and thus human reasoning—possible at all.

Consider our knowledge of space and time: is such knowledge derived from experience? Not even a little bit—the spatiotemporal "intuitions," as Kant calls them, are necessarily given a priori in order for experience to occur. How could we have experience if it did not take place in an already spatially and temporally given setting? We necessarily possess a priori knowledge as a condition for engaging in intelligible experience at all. I will not elucidate the remaining a priori categories. Please do your homework next time, Mr Peppin.

HECTOR G. MCINTYRE  
 Philosophy Graduate Studies

### There's more to truth than science, Peppin

Once again, Tim Peppin has proved that

he needs to think through what he's going to write before he puts fingers to keyboard ("Only science can give us the real truth," 20 January). Or perhaps not. Perhaps he meant to say exactly what he said. Perhaps we should all follow his example, too. You know what? Let's call all our significant others and tell them that all that "love" stuff we said earlier was all crap, and that we're just in it for the sex.

Because that's the logical conclusion of Peppin's latest article: If only science can reveal the truth, then we are certainly living in a world devoid of love, because there is no scientific evidence that love exists. It can't be measured in quantity, nor does it have physical substance. It could be argued that it is observed, and thus scientifically quantifiable through its experience, but the same claim could be made about God, or any other metaphysical event. It is equally possible that what we call love is just a clever falsehood woven by our brains in an effort to further the goals of procreation, and thus our perception of love is just our way of rationalizing "fauxty experience."

Or perhaps science is not the final arbiter of truth. Perhaps scientific truth

is but a subset of all truth. Perhaps there are truths that science cannot tell, cannot reveal. And, indeed, there are—love is one such truth. Families, friendships, and romantic relationships all depend on this truth, a truth which science cannot prove. And if there is one truth science cannot reveal, is it really as absurd as Tim Peppin suggests to claim that there are others?

It can be otherwise, Mr Peppin.

KENNETH KULY  
 Computer Engineering V

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [opinion@gateways.ualberta.ca](mailto:opinion@gateways.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

### Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Sighs it's election day in Iraq

- 10 Insurgents proudly wearing their own version of P Diddy's "Vote or Die!" shirts that read "Vote and Die!"
- 9 Voters instructed to locate polls by following sound of AK-47s.
- 8 Rash of hernia complaints due to Kevlar ballots.
- 7 Bush administration introduces phrases like "mushroom clouds of freedom" and "smoking craters of democracy."
- 6 Candidates practice diving behind neutral solid object, just in case they win.
- 5 Marines running around comically and bumping into each other while Keystone Cops music plays.
- 4 Rock the Vote campaign enters final phase of non-stop mortar fire.
- 3 Cheney and Rumsfeld move on to planning election results for Iran and Syria.
- 2 Traffic gridlocked with suicide bomber cars.
- 1 Almost as many votes cast at the polling stations as hand grenades.

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# Clubbing just ain't what it used to be

Ridiculous DJs, overpriced drinks and terrible '90s music combine for suck



ABRAHAM  
LEITNER

At about the same time that prepupscent earn the privilege of driving, the clubbing nightlife becomes the epitome of cool. Rocking out, drinking your face off, waking up the next afternoon with no idea of the location of your pants—this is the existence that is dreamt of by the party-animal teenager. I was no exception. But after six years of late-night shenanigans, that wonderful den of drinks and dancing has sunk a bit in its fun-o-meter rating. As of late, something's gone wrong up on cloud number nine.

And no, Edmonton clubs haven't traded electro-funk for Bryan Adams. Shit, they haven't traded it for anything at all. The single most obvious clue of your arrival at a club is the pulsating beat of MuchMusic's *Electric Circus*. That, and the extortionate coat check, where each outer layer needed to brave an Albertan winter will cost you \$2 a piece (plus tip) to moult on a hanger.

Your only reprieve from the blasting bass line is the interruptions by the sadistic—and hideously brawny—onstage DJ. You might recognize him from such lines as, "Why the fuck aren't you dancing?" Or, the ever-popular, "Would all the ugly people in the crowd shut the fuck up?" Then why on earth are you still yelling?

Since dancing makes sweat, and sweat is best friends with thirst, you might soon find yourself at one of the club's many bars. Fortunately, the bars have made it nice and easy to

make a decision by offering just three options: bottled beer, a shot of tequila, or some unregulated mix of which-ever alcohol and pop spit out of the fountain nozzle. You could ask them to mix you a real drink, so long as you're in the market for a drink that's real shitty tasting. Basically it boils down to choosing which low-quality bathwater you want to imbibe.

**Your only reprieve from the blasting bass line is the interruptions by the sadistic—and hideously brawny—onstage DJ. You might recognize him from such lines as, "Why the fuck aren't you dancing?"**

If, while sipping that delightful berry, you survey your surroundings, you may notice a great wealth of women. Not that the ratio is anything to write home about, but somehow females end up in the darndest places. Look! There's a couple of 'em swinging from a trapeze. And over there, a gaggle of girls grinding onstage. Half a dozen more are in cages next to the DJ, while a selection of the few, the proud, the well-endowed are hovering over tubs full of ice and booze. Most recently christened are the fabulous Ladies of the Dance. Highly competitive, highly focused and almost certainly severely dehydrated, these two dynamos compete non-stop for the Championship of the World in creative booty-shaking. Men are found in the nearby vicinity, eyes googling.

Halfway through your fifth \$5.25 (plus tip) highball, it might be time for a trip to the washroom. While merrily going about your business you may notice a marked increase in the bathroom attendant service industry. It's nearly impossible to escape without the help of one of these gentlemen: they'll squirt your hand soap; tear off your paper towel; splash you with your (or their) favourite cologne; even offer something to slay your dragon breath. These attendants are charmingly avid promoters of public hygiene and also exclusively young black men, which probably isn't an issue for you if the breasts of the beer-bud girl didn't tickle you in the first place. While the change in service from yesteryear is remarkably improved, it's good to know that some things are kept so down-to-earth traditional as to predate the Emancipation Proclamation.

One welcome tweak in service that was long overdue is the frisk and pat-down administered by your friendly neighbourhood bouncer. Admittedly a bit awkward at first, the momentary discomfort is outweighed by the peace of mind from knowing that tonight will be a knife-less, gun-less—though perhaps also soulless—clubbing experience. Which can't be said about a trip to WEM's World Waterpark where kids with backpacks possibly full of shivs, firearms and even swim trunks are allowed in without so much as a security guard to rummage through their belongings.

The exciting days of fooling the doorman with your fake ID are long gone and have been replaced with the crushing surety of a painfully boring night out. Smothered with flaws and carrying the strong odour of oppression, clubs just ain't what they used to be.

Good God, 22 feels old.

# Message of tolerance is lost in time of war



RAMIN  
OSTAD

Six years ago, Reverend Jerry Falwell informed the world of a threat to our social stability. It seemed that a children's television show called *The Teletubbies* was pushing ideas of homosexuality using a purple, purse-carrying creature with a cowbell on its head; its name was Tinky Winky.

Now a new danger has emerged, threatening the scion of reality that is television. A little-known, non-profit terrorist cell calling itself the We Are Family Foundation has created a music video for the 1971 song of the same title—a video containing 100 of the most notorious gay characters on television, including Barney the Dinosaur, an assortment of thugs from the mean streets of Sesame, and their ringleader Spongebob Squarepants, the video hits 61 000 schools in March.

But have no fear. For wherever there is any sign of homosexuality, Christian conservative groups are there to spoil the sodomy. We can thank them for the outing of Ernie and his unbrowed lover Bert. They keep us safe from characters like Winnie the Pooh, who feels that it is appropriate to walk around without pants. We can thank

"For wherever there is any sign of homosexuality, Christian conservative groups are there to spoil the sodomy. We can thank them for the outing of Ernie and his unbrowed lover Bert. They keep us safe from characters like Winnie the Pooh, who feels that it is appropriate to walk around without pants."

them for showing us that the aforementioned Squarepants' largest demographic is gays. What would we ever do without them?

Well, for one thing, we would probably be a lot more tolerant of each other. You see, these "CRACKPOT Christians"—the acronym stands for creepy, rigid, arrogant, cruel, know-it-all, pompous, obnoxious and treacherous and was coined by MSNBC contributor Michael Ventre—are telling us that these cartoon characters were put together in order to present a pro-homosexual message to kids. Before I continue, let me just clarify a few things. There is a video. It does promote tolerance of diversity, but there are no references to sex, sexual lifestyle or sexual identity—although you cannot deny the humour in a Big Bird euphemism. So what are these groups offended by? They are taking exception to the tolerance pledge on the foundation's website, which asks people to respect the sexual identity of others along with their abilities, beliefs, culture and race. Apparently that's just one difference too many.

According to Dr James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family,

"Their inclusion of the reference to 'sexual identity' within their 'tolerance pledge' is not only unnecessary but it crosses a moral line. ... We see this video as an insidious means by which the organization is manipulating and potentially brainwashing kids." The beautiful irony is the fact that while Dobson accuses the We Are Family Foundation of using children to promote pro-homosexual themes, Dobson himself is trying to pull at the heartstrings of conservatives by using, wait for it: children.

I feel bad for Vile Rodgers; he's the founder of the We Are Family Foundation. Like many people seeking to change the world, he's just ahead of his time—or maybe he's too late. While I admire his mission, spreading a message of tolerance in a time of war is like getting abstinence advice from Paris Hilton. Any attempt at educating people with a lesson of tolerance is going to be shot down, especially if it includes tolerance of homosexuality in a country run by people who sexualized Sesame Street. Until we can take a step back from our constant state of emergency, the CRACKPOTS will reign supreme.

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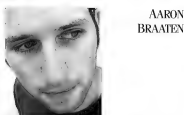
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## Bush sent mixed messages with horn signal



AARON  
BRAATEN

Last Thursday, 20 January, marked the inauguration of President Bush to his second term in office. Bush, when he wasn't riding in an armour-plated, bomb-proof limousine, strolled down a parade route that had been completely locked down by men who looked more like Robocops than police officers, past spectators who had been thoroughly patted down and searched, and away from angry protestors who had been quarantined into "free-speech zones." And then he did the unexpected: he extolled the virtues of American freedom and liberty.

But this was only the precursor to one devastatingly mixed signal as Bush neutered his rhetoric of spreading the fire of freedom to nations around the world and quite possibly solidified his status as the Middle East poster-child of the Great Satan. He did it by flashing what is being interpreted as the "devil horns" hand salute.

Norway, a nation of death-metal aficionados, first reeled in shock as Bush peppered his speech with references to the Creator and then consistently flashed the University of Texas "hook 'em" hand signal, which looks strangely similar to the "devil horn" salute often displayed by diehard metal fans. This was unusual to most viewers in North America, but to the Norwegian online newspaper *Netavisen* and its readership, it was interpreted as a sign that Bush has gone to the dark side.

It may not have been Bush's intent, but pictures of him, Laura and their daughter Jenna flashing the hand signal were picked up by over 180 newspapers



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: IRIS TSE

**DEVIL WENT DOWN TO TEXAS** Is this an innocent or insidious gesture?

within hours of the original Associated Press release, sending conspiracy theorists into apocalyptic states of frenzied skull-and-bones speculation.

The "Texas hook 'em" hand signal, according to the University of Texas at Austin website, was first used by Attorney Harley R. Clark and his buddy Henry Pitts at a pep rally in 1955 before a football game to symbolize the horns of the University of Texas Longhorns bovine logo. That it happens to resemble the devil salute is merely coincidence. Or is it?

The "Texas hook 'em" hand signal is done with the right hand whereas a full-blown satanic salute is done with the *sinistra*, or left hand. Both use the middle and ring fingers curled beneath the thumb with the pinky and index extended. The book *Satanism in America* states that the "horned hand" is the sign of recognition between those who are "in the occult" and depicts it as a left, not right hand. The right hand, however, symbolizes the horned god, the hunter, who goes by Cernunnos and Pan in Celtic and Greek mythologies respectively. Cernunnos/Pan was targeted by early Christian churches as an unacceptable symbol of paganism, and Pan's trident later became a symbol

of Satan himself. Jerry Falwell, along with some Wiccans, must be choked.

Most likely, the Bush family was giving a blue-blooded shout-out to the Texas Longhorns marching band, whose football team edged out Michael Moore's home state Michigan Wolverines 38-37 in this year's Rose Bowl game, which arguably mirrored the tight 2004 election. Occam's Razor would dictate that this simplest of explanations is the correct one. Other anti-Razors, though, would require more to explain this episode.

More intriguingly, Bush's salute adds fresh perspective to his statement that, "[B]y our efforts, we have lit a fire as well—a fire in the minds of men. It warms those who feel its power, it burns those who fight its progress, and one day this untamed fire of freedom will reach the darkest corners of our world."

The crux of the matter is the difference between the intent and perception of symbols. Bush likely had the best of intentions when he plugged what appears to be an inside joke, but not many people are laughing. The cruelty of this joke is how other nations might interpret it: "Let the freedom fire and democracy brimstone fall."

## 60 years later, the Holocaust hasn't taught us much



SCOTT  
LILWALL

Time has a way of changing things. Just like the jug of milk that has resided in my refrigerator since early October, some of the notions and principles we held in the past have become obsolete and forgotten. In some instances, these shifts are a godsend, as I don't think that any one of us would like to live in a world where a polyester leisure suit is a respectable wardrobe option. However, other principles held and lessons learned are of the type that should never be forgotten, that should be held in our collective consciousness forever. And these are the lessons most easily forgotten.

For example, today marks the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the most infamous of the concentration camps used as Hitler's

"Final Solution" during World War II. Now, more than half a century later, the day has become an international day of remembrance for people to grieve for the loss and suffering of over six million Jewish prisoners, as well as the millions of Soviets, gypsies, political prisoners and others who died in the camps. On 27 January, we solemnly reflect on the day the camps were closed down and we all promised, "Never again."

It may have been more fitting, though, to simply say, "Maybe later." Because, as much as we might like to think it did, genocide did not end with the destruction of Auschwitz or the fall of the Third Reich. Ethnic cleansing is still one of our world's favourite pastimes. Cambodia and East Timor in the 1970s are examples of this, as well as the more recent crises in Rwanda and Darfur. After the true extent of the Nazi persecution was revealed, the Allied powers of the world criticized themselves for not making moves to stop Hitler's final solution when it was first implemented. It is obvious that the world did not learn a lesson in 1945,

however. Not only did genocide continue to occur all over the world, but world powers continued to ignore it.

What once was considered one of the greatest atrocities in modern history is fading from memory, becoming a footnote and a subject of ridicule. At a time when British royalty deck themselves out in Nazi gear for costume parties, or when, according to CTV and the Association for Canadian Studies, 30 per cent of Canadians can't correctly identify Jews as the primary victims of the death camps, it's obvious that the importance of the event has been lost on us. If we do not have a proper respect for our failings in the past, how is the world to prevent them from happening again in the future?

Hopefully, the memorials and reflection around this anniversary will bring the tragedy of genocide—not just the Holocaust, but other instances as well—back into the minds of citizens and governments around the world. The first step to combating genocide is to quit denying its existence. Hopefully, next time we say, "Never again," it will mean just that: never.

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**THE GATEWAY**



# Canada should be proud of our tsunami aid



ROB  
FURSEWICZ

"We've done much to be proud of in tsunami relief," wrote Lorne Gunter in last Monday's National Post, "but we could have done so much more."

Canada has given enormous amounts of money and deployed DART. What more could we have done, given our financial resources?

Our government was even matching citizen contributions (until 11 January), which is odd given that those were our tax dollars in the first place. It's akin to a buy-one-get-one-free sale where the "free" item has been taken where the "free" item has been taken from your home and given back to you; if we wanted to give twice as much, we'd do it ourselves.

Either way, most are proud of Canada's world-class contribution. Yet there are always those Canadians who will step in to defend the US whenever Canada just might have a rare advantage over our great southern neighbours.

Someone on Gunter's cable box had the nerve to state that Canada's relief contributions were larger than the US's—surely that couldn't be true.

"It's not true," he writes. US financial aid, "plus the cost of the aircraft carrier, relief ships, transport planes [and] squadrons of helicopters" means "the Americans' contribution is unsurpassed in the world."

That's fantastic, but Gunter forgets

that Canada has no military, one-tenth the population of the United States, and one-eleventh of its GDP.

Given this, and ignoring the military aid for a minute, it seems to me that the US should be giving ten times Canada's financial contribution. The US certainly hasn't responded weakly.

It's just that Canada has pledged such a monumental amount of cash that it wouldn't be right to judge America's contribution against our.

Comparing monetary contributions is unfair—and the comparison pundits like Gunter invoke of military-based aid efforts. If you're going to factor in military contributions, the United States will obviously dominate. America's military spending (\$420.7 billion per year) is greater than the next 23 nations combined.

What would be the reaction if the United States, global leaders in terms of war and military intervention, neglected to use their military implementing to help do some good in tsunami-ravaged areas? This is where Gunter's points are laughable: the United States should not be commended for their military-based contributions. It should be expected, and it's the least they can do considering their military spending and global presence.

One thing this tsunami disaster has done is allow Bush and his government to show that, when push comes to shove, they will do what is necessary. While right-wingers whine about Paul Martin vacationing or taking too long to fire up contribution levels, leftists whine that Bush isn't giving enough. Both sides should quit whining.

Realistically, comparing aid is an academic exercise within the big picture. The whole world has contributed, and will continue to do so, at least for as long as the tsunami media coverage continues bringing waves of ratings successes.

For now, the world can be proud of its response. The media has won because, while doing its duty in covering a historic disaster and helping induce donations, ratings and readership levels are up as people strive to learn more. Bush and his government win because not only has a greater disaster taken the world's eyes off the great disaster of Iraq, but they've had the opportunity to showcase their long-lost "compassionate conservatism." And now, a tsunami warning system is about to come into effect, providing hope for the future.

Even anti-Liberal pundits have had a chance to advance their cause for more Canadian military spending, tying it to how much more we could've given if we had more aircraft carriers, ships, planes, helicopters and soldiers.

If the biggest problem in all the aftermath and political fist-throwing is that "Canada has become... a cheque-writer in international affairs, not a sleeve-roller," as Gunter writes, then all is well. We have the capability and the compassion to write such cheques—huge ones at that—and whining about what we didn't do with the additional resources we don't have won't save any lives. After all, pundits talk, but so does money, and which would a victim of the tsunami prefer right now?

## Take the T&A off the menu at Joey Tomato's



TASHA  
YOUNG

There's a new breed of eatery that's snuck into our nightlife. You enjoy having a nice meal and skanking it up at the bar? Well, now you can have both. Acquaint yourself with the latest, most frustrating combination of serving up great dishes while molesting your conscience at the new Joey Tomato's.

Joey Tomato's serves good food, reasonably priced, in a comfortable yet energetic atmosphere. But lately I've noticed between bites of my peel-and-eat shrimp that there's more tail walking around than I'm spitting out onto my plate.

Joey Tomato's wasn't always showing its ample bosoms in my face. I have vague memories of going there and being served by waiters and waitresses who were attentive and friendly without offering up some prerequisite serving of T&A. I've worked in a restaurant for almost a year, and the value of attractiveness in the workplace is certainly not lost on me, but attractive is different from provocative.

A friend of mine who works there recently mentioned that she was never getting good tips until her manager hinted that she ought to wear more revealing clothes, and has been tipped well ever since. Does Joey Tomato's still have any desire to hold on to some element of its universal, as opposed to male-targeted, appeal?

Explain it to me, Joey Tomato's: I thought it was okay to come here on a date, but anyone bringing their date here had better hope she'll be lucky enough to get served by the new girl who hasn't yet figured out that she



SEX ISN'T ON THE MENU A meal without the cleavage would be nice, thanks.

should be showing more than just a big smile. Skin belongs in bars, clubs, and pubs. Men go out drinking and enjoy hanging out with their servers, and women often go out dressed similarly to the waitresses, so everyone's happy. But what do you do with a restaurant that's trying to bring you a sexy Friday night at 2pm on a Monday? Just pull down your skirt and bring me my cavatappi!

Joey Tomato's was recently voted "Best Casual Dining Restaurant" by readers of *Where? Calgary* magazine.

Casual? Casual restaurants encourage their servers to dress prettily, but not exposed, so as not to alienate more conservative folk such as anyone female who doesn't want to be made to feel like she ought to have taken off more clothes before she left the house. The restaurant side is slightly more conservative than the lounge side, but that doesn't stop an eyeful of legs and cleavage from manning the front

entryway or at least walking by my table every once in a while. And even if Joey Tomato's is trying to look more upscale, they won't fit in there either, because classy or expensive restaurants have their staff wear a uniform of sorts so as to make them look like professional servers as opposed to professional... something else.

Besides, I don't know anyone who would go out of their way to dress up to go for dinner or drinks at Joey Tomato's. And yet, judging by the attire of the lounge servers and hostesses, you'd think there was a dress code demanding that you leave your torn jeans, dorky sneakers, and bra at the door.

Now go ahead and tell me I belong with your grandmother's mah-jongg club, but I want to protect the children, my date, and my appetite. I have nothing against this restaurant—they serve great, affordable food. Just take the breasts off the menu.

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# FOR THE LOVE OF THE

A trip to last Saturday's volleyball game quickly proved just how popular GUBA and Patches really are. Upon arriving, anyone under the age of 15 flocks toward the furry and charming University of Alberta mascots, asking for hugs, handshakes, and high-fives. Yet it takes a lot to get the older demographic to warm up to the animals.

It's hard to deny that mascots, even ones outside the University, are among the most underappreciated people involved in sports games. In fact, despite their obvious role of pumping up the crowd and representing the team, we seldom bestow them any notable attention unless something particularly bad happens to them. Who would know that the Calgary Flames have a mascot named Harvey the Hound had Edmonton Oilers coach Craig MacTavish not yanked out his tongue, after all?

It may be true that, in a world where teams rely on things like "special teams," "group effort," and "momentum," mascots hardly define the success or failure of any given group. They have never been known as the cause of any horrid ten-game losing streaks, and they've never propelled any team into the playoffs just by their sheer cheering power. Never will any member of the Bears football squad exclaim, "Good lord, we couldn't have posted our best season since 1984 if it weren't for GUBA cheering on the sidelines!"

But even though no mascots have ever scored an overtime goal in game seven and launched the team into playoff delirium, mascots aren't without their uses. Starting when GUBA (the Great University Bear of Alberta) was dreamt up by then-assistant athletic director of the University, Chuck Moser, in the early 1970s, the U of A mascots have definitely made the games more fun to watch, working up the crowd and perhaps boosting teams' home-field advantages.

"I always wanted to make sure that people who come to the games, and the athletes themselves, are having a great experience," says Moser, recalling the origin of GUBA. (Patches didn't arrive until the 1990s, when GUBA was given a makeover and a new partner in crime.) "I was always very interested in making sure that there were good halftime shows, and that people were entertained. I still feel strongly that it should be a carnival of athletics and a carnival of enjoyment for children and adults alike."

The idea of a mascot first struck Moser when he was attending the Rainbow Classic for NCAA basketball in Honolulu, where he was honeymooning at the time. It was during one of the games when he was especially impressed by the memorable performance of the mascot brought along by the Brigham Young Cougars.

"I tried to imagine what it would be like if we had him in our own gymnasium. He was tremendous! He had costume changes; he'd be in Hawaiian shirts or he'd wear a grass skirt sometimes. He's a gymnast, so he could do all sorts of stuff. But most of all, he could handle a basketball. It's obvious that whoever was in the suit had the crowd in the palm of his hands."

With this performance firmly entrenched in his head, Moser returned to Canada with the mandate of creating a mascot for the U of A. The costume, made from gold-coloured fleece, was the easiest part of the process; the tough part was finding somebody to get inside the suit. Luckily, Moser met John Struger, who, Moser recalls, was a "pretty darn good basketball player."

With everything set, the final detail was to pick a day to unveil the mascot. Moser and

Struger picked a game against the UBC Thunderbirds. The Golden Bears had won in overtime the last time the teams met, so the built-up animosity and the excitement of the crowd made it the perfect opportunity to launch the newly created (and still nameless) mascot. But the next thing that happened stunned even Moser.

"It was absolutely unbelievable. If you were writing a script, you couldn't have written it any better than what happened that night," he says.

With the boisterous crowd goading him in the background, Struger picked up a green- and gold-coloured basketball, which was a novelty back then, and aimed towards the basket from the foul line. But with the crowd cheering and the adrenaline pumping, he slowly backed towards the centre line. The crowd was going crazy, and Moser admits that he was scared by Struger's gutsy move.

"When he went to centre and started fooling around, I was looking from between my fingers. I was afraid to look. I was praying that he would do something soon before he totally bombed the shot. He put the ball up, bounced it, and then the ball went sailing through the air. It never made a sound as it swooshed through the basket," says Moser.

"And that started him on the right foot."

With the bar set high, the various people who donned the costume from then on continued going to great lengths to electrify the crowd. Their tactics were only limited by their imaginations: Moser remembers that one of the GUBA guys was a gymnast and he would do a breathtaking national-calibre trampoline act in the GUBA suit. GUBA also had an extra-long hockey stick and he would try handling the puck when the zamboni was still on the ice; he'd pretend to "surf" while being dragged around the football field by a dune buggy; he tried out a series of different identities, including GUBA Bond, GUBA Skywalker and Cowboy GUBA; he even ran for Students' Union president once, though he was eventually disqualified.

Though GUBA and Patches haven't tried anything as reckless in recent times, their job isn't any easier than before. Aside from being present at nearly every Pandas and Golden Bears home game, they also attend a myriad of school activities. They were there during the early mornings of Week of Welcome, greeting the students waiting in line for a pancake breakfast. They recently attended the launch of Campaign 2008, one of the largest fundraising events in U of A history, and they occasionally make appearances at local elementary schools to yuck it up with children eager to play with them.

According to Derek Pontin, one of the students who currently suits up as Patches or GUBA on game weekends, a mascot's day usually starts an hour prior to the game. Since the costumes aren't designed with manual dexterity in mind, he usually requires some help to suit up.

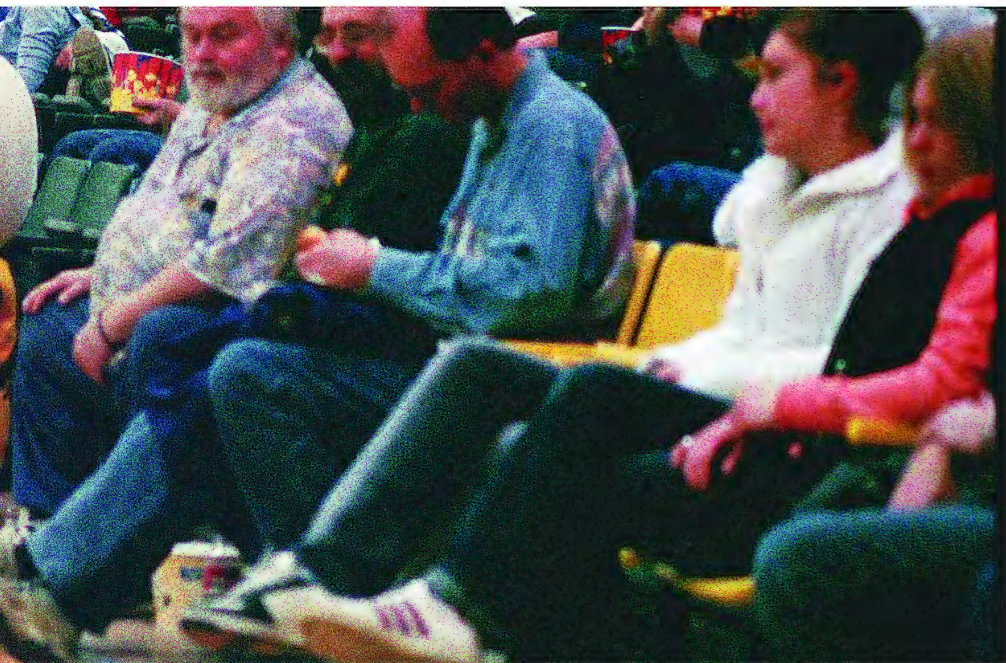
"I'm glad that there's always somebody there to help me put on the costume, like stretch it over my shoulders, which I couldn't do on my own," says Pontin.

Though their audience includes students and adults who attend the various games, Patches' and GUBA's biggest fans are the little kids who come along.

"Often in a game you'll see the kids run up to the mascot and they're excited to see one of them," explains Doug McLean, the U of A's athletic events coordinator.

But while the cute kids can make their day, unruly and overzealous kids can easily break their





# HUG

**Through the ages, the U of A's two mascots have cheered on the Bears and the Pandas.**

***This is their story.***

day, and misbehaving University students can be just as hazardous as misbehaving kids.

"I've been picked up, dropped sideways and got beat up," says Pontin. But though that sounds quite horrific, he quickly adds, "I've got massive padding everywhere, so I can't feel anything."

McLean also points out that the rowdier types are usually not a major problem. "A lot of the time, what we found is that the fans go a little bit too far in terms of playing with the mascot," so to speak. I think sometimes people forget that there's a person inside the costume doing this job," he adds. To combat this, McLean encourages his mascots to stay pretty close to the "A-team" workers at the games so there's someone to keep an eye on them.

Dehydration is another serious risk common to all mascots. It seems everybody who has suited up as Patches and GUBA vividly associates stifling heat with the costume.

"Sometimes, it's absolutely horrendous how hot it gets," says Pontin. "The shirt is soaked through and you can wring your clothes and it's drenched. You have to drink litres and litres of water. So many mascots are in danger of passing out because of the heat, and people think they're just playing around."

That's why Pontin tries to limit his costume time to 45-minute shifts with 15-minute breaks between them. It's unfeasible, and even unhealthy, to stay inside the costume for the entirety of a three-hour game. "Besides, I can't stand out there the whole time or else the crowd will get completely tired of me," he adds.

**W**orkplace hazards aside, the mascots have generally proven to be irreplaceable during the games. "Games usually last for two or three hours and, say every half an hour, the mascot can come by and do something stupid. It just breaks the monotony of the game," says Pontin.

While McLean admits that the main function of the mascots is to work with the kids and hang around them a little bit, there are still a few simple guidelines to follow. Mainly, the volunteers must remember that the mascots are there first and foremost to represent the University.

"I certainly want to make sure the mascots are not doing anything that will poorly represent the University in any way. ... We certainly ought to make sure that they're not physically getting involved with the fans or anything crazy like that," says McLean.

With GUBA turning 35 years old this year, our mascots have certainly been through a variety of stunts and calamities. They're always there for the big wins and for the crushing losses, pumping up the crowd, coaxing them into making a human wave, playing with kids looking for a hug, or just allowing them a curious tug on the tail. So the next time you see Patches or GUBA, it might help to give the person inside some well-deserved attention, even if they aren't shooting a basketball from the centre line. Don't try to beat them up, though; give them an appreciative hug instead.

Because you have no idea how hot that suit is.

**Feature and photos by Iris Tse**



# SPORTS

sports@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, 27 January, 2005

## Volleyball Pandas host unbeaten Dinos

Alberta can clinch playoff berth with a win this weekend

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Writer

In the program that showcases the University of Alberta volleyball teams, Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler's last name is misspelled "Eisner." But regardless, the coach isn't actually related to Disney boss Mickey Eisner, and if all goes as expected, the final stretch of the Pandas' season will be anything but Mickey Mouse.

After having last weekend off, the Pandas (10-4) are well-rested and ready for what will likely be an uphill battle as they approach the Canada West playoffs, with the biggest hurdle coming from the Calgary Dinos (16-0) this weekend. The Dinos won the CIS championship last year (defeating the Pandas in four sets in the national final) and have span their CIS gold into an undefeated season this year, including two wins over the Pandas in Calgary in mid-November. Those matches were close, though, and both games went a full five sets, so the Pandas know if they bring their best game to the court they could end Calgary's perfect season.

"Whenever you take on the number-one team in the country, you'd better have your game intact," said Eisler. "It's not going to be any one part of the game that can win it for you. It's got to be getting contributions from every phase of the game. You've got to go after them; you can't be sitting back waiting for them to make a mistake, because they're going to come at you."

One facet of the Pandas' game that Eisler suggested needs improvement if they're to post wins

this weekend is aggression on the court. She said that at times her team has been too conservative in its play, and the result showed on the scoreboard at the end of the match, a problem that needs to be rectified in the six remaining regular-season matches before playoffs.

"You have to have that aggression and offensive punch," she said. "I think if we've had a fault, sometimes we've been too conservative and haven't had the aggression that we need when push comes to shove."

Alberta, which enters the weekend in fourth place in the conference, has virtually secured one of the six available playoff spots (they can clinch with a win over Calgary or a Manitoba loss to Winnipeg), but the games this weekend still have significant importance for the Pandas' play-off positioning, as they currently sit two wins behind UBC and Winnipeg, who are tied for second place. The top three teams in the standings will host first-round playoff matches.

"For us, we're still jockeying for a playoff position, so there's probably a lot more pressure on our team [than on Calgary]. They've already got a little asterisk beside their name meaning that they've clinched a playoff spot. We don't have that little asterisk there so there's a lot on the line for us," Eisler said. "I'm very confident we're going to be in the playoffs, but obviously you'd like to finish as high as you can. We'd love to host a quarter-final here."

Opening serve for the matches is scheduled for 8:15pm tomorrow and 6:30pm on Saturday, in the Main Gym.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN JENNINGS

**MAD SCRAMBLE** The Bears beat UBC 73-67 last Sunday, after beating Victoria two days earlier.

## Confident Cougars hope to tear Pandas up

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

The Regina Cougars are in a unique position in Canada West women's hockey: they have players on their roster who remember beating the Alberta Pandas. And while it's been a long time—nearly four years—since that happened last, they're confident that they'll be able to do it again when they visit Clare Drake Arena this weekend.

Only two Cougars (forwards Kelsey Renzassoff and Erin Tady) are still around from the team that swept the Pandas in the Canada West final on 16 and 17 February, 2001. But even though Alberta has since played the role of a brick wall for the squad that's consistently been the second-best team in the conference, Cougars head coach Sarah Howald insisted that she's looking forward to this weekend's games against the Pandas, tomorrow and Saturday at 7pm.

"We don't mind," she said. "They're good games. We probably like playing them more than anybody else, actually. We just have to play our game and play well. Any team's beatable, but we just have to worry about ourselves."

While the Pandas (14-0-0) are undefeated in 80 conference games, the second-place Cougars (8-5-1) seem the most likely candidates to break that streak, and in fact they've come very close in the past. Earlier this season in Regina, they held a 3-2 lead over the Pandas with only three minutes left in the third period, before Pandas left-winger Danielle Bourgeois scored twice to give Alberta the win.

"I don't think at any point has Regina ever not thought that they could beat us," said Pandas head coach Howie Draper. "They're a very good hockey team. They've got a tremendous offense and solid defense, and I don't think they have any reason to think they can't beat us."

The Cougars are second to Alberta in every offensive statistical category, and while the

Pandas' defense—anchored by Delaney Collins-Pye, who's at a Team Canada training camp in Calgary this week but will return in time for tomorrow's game—is far from weak, it will be facing a tougher challenge than usual this weekend and will need to prepare accordingly.

"If they're looking for an edge, that would be their edge," said Draper. "But then, I feel that our offense is stronger than most defenses out there. We play our best hockey in the offensive zone, so as much as we can keep it out of our end and in the other end, we'll find success."

**"I don't think at any point has Regina ever not thought that they could beat us. They're a very good hockey team."**

PANDAS HEAD COACH HOWIE DRAPER

While the Pandas are unbeaten, the Cougars have shown well enough in recent meetings to hammer home the point that the Alberta squad is indeed beatable, and Draper admitted that he's taking extra care to prepare for the Cougars' attack.

"I'm worried against everyone we play," Draper said. "But we're focusing on our defensive play a little bit this week, simply because we know that they've got a potent offense. ... The reality is that we don't play in our own zone very much. The problem with that is that we don't get an opportunity to get practice in game situations that much in our own zone."

Although victory over Alberta is only a distant memory for the Cougars, Howald insisted that her team won't let past results haunt them.

"Everybody makes a big deal out of it, but it's just another couple games," she said. "We're looking forward to it."



NICK WHITE

**OVERPOWERING THE HERD** The Pandas beat the Manitoba Bisons 5-1 and 6-1 last weekend.



# Hoops Pandas are just more fun to watch than the Golden Bears

They have a losing record, but they're winning over crowds with their play



PAUL OWEN

Sports  
Commentary

With only six games remaining on their respective schedules, the Golden Bears and Pandas basketball teams are staring down opposite ends of their respective playoff chases. The 8-6 Bears have all but secured a playoff spot, while the 5-9 Pandas probably have to win four down the stretch just to make the post-season. But, as Ashlee Simpson has taught us, records can be deceiving. The Pandas are the team to watch on campus, despite their losing ways, while the Bears have become snoozers, regularly playing down to their competition and never putting on a show for their home crowd.

The Pandas are the traditional underdog story. The team has been decimated by injuries over the past few years: Christine Shewchuk is gone and the rubber bands and silly putty that currently hold Stephanie Stolk's knee together are flimsier than the Pandas' alumni's attire at Saturday night home games. After a 5-15 season last year, the Pandas brought in eight new players—seven first-years—showcasing a roster so young that half of them can't legally drink on some road trips. Everyone on the Pandas has something compelling about them, whether it is undersized guard Ashley Wigg's chin-high dribble

or powerful Kristin Jarock's untouchable drop-step. The Pandas always play hard, and even when they're down 20, they always seem ready to jump back into the game.

The Bears, by contrast, have been downright boring to watch this year. They don't have a designated scorer, rebounder or defender. While they're competing in their division, they never bother to turn it on and dominate as they're expected to, and that's not even mentioning their impressive early-season loss to Lethbridge, the Central Division doormat. They haven't even managed to pull off a big win at home this season.

Head coach Don Horwood has the shortest bench in the conference, and talented players like Joel Allen are left to hold everyone's warm-ups on the bench and surf through their iTunes while collecting cobwebs. Starting post player Phil Sudol with his \$60 haircut might be the least entertaining star player in the history of basketball. Veteran Mike Melnychuk takes fewer shots than Ales Hemsky on a power play. Rather than passing the ball to Tyler Coston, the team has seemingly decided to just place the ball at mid-court and run back on defense—that would have the same result as what they're doing now, at any rate. James Hudson throws down some massive dunks in pre-game, but he gets more gun-shy on a fast break than I do at a public urinal. And even their mascot is stupid: what kind of name is GUBA, anyways?

The Pandas have youth, energy



**LOOK AT THEM GO** The Pandas lost this game against the UBC Thunderbirds 84-62 last Sunday, but that doesn't necessarily mean that they aren't the basketball team to watch around these parts.

and compelling underdog status. The Bears, on the other hand, are a strong defensive team that never gets a big stop and never looks like it wants to be one of the best teams in the league, as we have come to expect them to be and as they have the talent to be. Thank God that Big Rock has a set-up in the Main Gym.

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# Unbeaten volleyball Bears ready to take a swipe at visiting Dinos

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Writer

Like a pimple on prom night, a 6 November loss to the UBC Thunderbirds has been the only blemish on the Bears volleyball team's otherwise perfect record this season. The Bears avenged that lone loss last weekend and posted two wins over the Thunderbirds, improving their record to 13-1 as they prepare to host the 4-10 Calgary Dinos this weekend.

Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said that revenge for their earlier loss was likely a motivating factor for his players.

"We didn't want to take [UBC] lightly, obviously, and we didn't want to brush off the fact that they were the team that beat us in our own gym," said Danyluk. "I think the guys prepared accordingly—it definitely

showed on Saturday."

With the wins over UBC, the Bears are now preparing for another chapter in the Battle of Alberta this weekend as they take on the Dinos in the Main Gym. The Bears seem to have the edge based on the conference standings this year, as they're nine wins ahead of Calgary, but the matches should be quite competitive since the Dinos (4-10) are fighting for their playoff lives, their hopes fading with each game.

"Calgary is always a good team. They've had one of the long-standing programs in the country so they're always dangerous," Danyluk said. "They're good enough to play with the best team, so we have to take them very seriously and be prepared for a tough set of games. They're in a do-or-die situation, playoff-wise, so they're going to come out hungry."

For the top-ranked Golden Bears, a spot in the playoffs is already guaranteed, but it's important for them to continue their momentum into the post-season by winning, or at least playing at a top level in their last six games. Focusing on each team will be key to turning their regular season success into a CIS medal in early March.

"We can't look past anybody—we have to be ready to play Calgary on Friday, then Saturday and so on and so forth. My goal is always to win," said Danyluk. "Realistically I'd like to continue what we've worked so hard to get to, to this stage. I think if the guys do their jobs and prepare well, teams are going to have to play real well to beat us, and that's the big thing."

The matches are scheduled to start at 6:30pm tomorrow and 8:15pm Saturday in the Main Gym.



JEFFREY GREENGLASS

**IN THE GRASP** The Golden Bears and Pandas put on a good show in two tournaments at the Butterdome last weekend.

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## VARSIY STATS

### Men's Hockey

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Alberta	20	17	2	1	97	39	35
x-Calgary	20	7	8	5	70	59	19
UBC	20	4	12	4	56	89	12
Lethbridge	22	2	18	2	57	123	6

#### Great Plains Division

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Saskatchewan	20	14	4	2	86	57	30
x-Manitoba	20	12	5	3	79	52	27
Regina	20	5	11	4	55	78	14
x-Clinched playoff spot							

#### Schedule

Friday  
Alberta @ Regina 6:30pm

Saturday  
Alberta @ Regina 6:30pm

### Women's Hockey

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
x-Alberta	14	14	0	0	84	31	28
Regina	14	8	5	1	51	37	17
UBC	14	5	7	2	26	46	12
Saskatchewan	14	4	9	1	31	53	9
Manitoba	14	4	9	1	30	53	9
Lethbridge	14	3	8	3	28	50	9
x-Clinched first place							

#### Results

Friday  
Manitoba 1 Alberta 5

Saturday  
Manitoba 1 Alberta 6

#### Schedule

Regina @ Alberta 7pm

Saturday  
Regina @ Alberta 7pm

### Men's Basketball

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	F	A	P
Calgary	14	9	5	1058	977	18	
Saskatchewan	14	9	5	1144	1107	18	
Alberta	14	8	6	1003	1029	16	
Lethbridge	14	5	9	1035	1108	10	

#### Results

Friday  
Victoria 73 Alberta 76

Sunday  
UBC 67 Alberta 73

#### Schedule

Friday  
Alberta @ Regina 8pm

Saturday  
Alberta @ Brandon 2pm

### Women's Basketball

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	F	A	P
x-Simon Fraser	14	14	0	1025	698	28	
x-Winnipeg	14	13	1	1040	748	26	
UBC	14	10	4	919	737	20	
Regina	14	9	5	902	829	18	
Victoria	14	7	7	862	835	14	
Manitoba	14	7	7	1032	949	14	
Saskatchewan	14	7	7	1008	955	14	
Calgary	14	6	8	868	895	12	
Alberta	14	5	9	917	1009	10	
Lethbridge	14	5	9	941	1037	10	
Trinity Western	14	13	1	736	974	2	
Brandon	14	0	14	566	1132	0	
x-Clinched playoff spot							

#### Results

Victoria 79 Alberta 54

Sunday  
UBC 84 Alberta 62

#### Schedule

Friday  
Alberta @ Regina 6:15pm

Saturday  
Alberta @ Brandon 12pm

### Men's Volleyball

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GL	GL	P
x-Alberta	14	13	1	41	10	26	
x-TWU	14	11	3	37	18	22	
UBC	14	7	7	28	25	14	
Calgary	14	4	10	15	35	8	
x-Clinched playoff spot							

#### Results

Friday  
Alberta 3 UBC 1

Saturday  
Alberta 3 UBC 0

Sunday  
Calgary @ Alberta 6:30pm

Saturday  
Calgary @ Alberta 8:15pm

### Women's Volleyball

#### Canada West standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	GL	GL	P
x-Calgary	16	16	0	48	13	32	
x-Winnipeg	14	12	2	38	13	24	
x-UBC	14	12	2	37	11	24	
Alberta	14	10	4	35	14	20	
Regina	14	6	8	20	26	12	
TWU	14	5	9	24	32	10	
Manitoba	14	4	10	16	33	8	
Saskatchewan	16	1	15	7	47	2	
Simon Fraser	16	0	16	12	48	0	
x-Clinched playoff spot							

#### Schedule

Friday  
Calgary @ Alberta 8:15pm

Saturday  
Calgary @ Alberta 6:30pm

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Men's Hockey

The top-ranked Golden Bears (17-2-1) were idle last weekend, but clinched first place in the Mountain Division when the Calgary Dinosaurs lost 5-2 to the Manitoba Bisons on Friday. Alberta returns to the ice tomorrow and Saturday in Regina for two games against the Cougars (5-13-4).

### Basketball

Golden Bears sport player Phil Sudol was named the Canadian Interuniversity Sport male athlete of the week after leading the Bears (8-6) to a pair of big wins last weekend. He had a total of 48 points and 13 rebounds as the Bears beat Victoria 76-73 on Friday night, then downed UBC 73-67 on Sunday.

The Pandas, meanwhile, suffered two big losses last weekend, losing 79-54 to Victoria on Friday and 84-62 to UBC on Sunday.

Both the Pandas and the Bears head east this weekend to face the Regina Cougars tomorrow night and the Brandon Bobcats on Sunday.

### Wrestling

The Pandas and Bears will compete in a dual meet with the Regina Cougars and Missouri Valley Lady Vikings tomorrow and Saturday in Regina. Alberta's contingent will include Panda Erica Sharp, who was 7-0 in the Varsity Open and Golden Bear Invitational at home last weekend. Fellow Panda Heidi Kulak, who is undefeated this season but missed last week's meets due to illness, is also expected to be back on the mat.

### Swimming

The Canada West championships took place last week in Lethbridge. The Golden Bears placed third, while the Pandas finished sixth.

### Track and Field

Saturday, various members of the Pandas and Golden Bears track squad will head to Winnipeg for the Cargill Games, hosted by the University of Manitoba.

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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Orchestrating Modern Dance Motif

40th Anniversary Gala  
Horowitz Theatre  
Saturday, 29 January at 8pm

Every year, Orchestrating the U of A's modern dance club puts on a major performance called Dance Motif. This year the club is celebrating its 40th anniversary, and you're invited to a weekend gala that promises fascinating choreography, captivating movement, and a little bit of the bubbly.

Scheduled to make an appearance is Alberta's own Brian Webb. Webb danced with the club in the '70s and is now making a comeback as guest choreographer.

### Red's Rocks The Red Cross

with Social Code, Tupelo Honey,  
Deep Fine Grind and  
The Las Vegas Crypt Keepers  
Red's  
Friday, 28 January at 6pm

Got the tsunami on your mind but haven't had a chance to contribute to the humanitarian effort? This Friday, Red's, The Bear, Vue Weekly, Axe Music, and thesundradio.com bring you one of the very best charity concerts to hit E-Town this year. All the proceeds from ticket sales go directly to the Red Cross.

### The Bills

with The Marc Atkinson Trio  
The Arden Theatre  
Friday, 28 January at 7:30pm

Lush, masterful and exuberant are three adjectives that have been used to describe this quintet, which formed in 1996 on Vancouver Island. Since then, the down-to-earth yet power-packed folk group has produced three albums, the most recent of which, *Let em Run*, has garnered both local and international praise.

Doing their thing at the Arden Theatre this Friday, The Bills' electrifying style and fresh, West-Coast approach is guaranteed to have you sitting on the edge of your seat.



### The Hidden Cameras with AVPH and The Faunts Powerplant Sunday, 30 January at 8pm

Maybe you ought to consider attending the Church of Rock—The Hidden Cameras presiding—this Sunday. The band has earned a too-hot reputation for its lyrics about gay issues, sexuality and Phil Spector-esque pop melodies—all presented gospel style, pipe organs and all (band mastermind Joel Gibb draws his influences from the goth/punk/pop mix of his youth as much as from his Baptist upbringing).

And while they may be used to playing ramshackle porn theatres and old churches—often with a crew of half-naked shimmy dancers in tow—this Sunday, the Toronto band's collective are going to be at the Powerplant. Hallelujah!

ASIA SZKUDLAREK & LEAH COLLINS  
Rock Philanthropist & Rock Church-goer, respectively



## Ice Cube's career: is it over yet?

### Are We There Yet?

Directed by Brian Levant  
Starring Ice Cube, Nia Long, Alesha Allen,  
Phillip Bolden and Jay Mohr  
Now Playing

GRAHAM PARSONS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A few years back, when *Barbershop* was hitting theatres, Ice Cube did an interview with *Spin* magazine. In it, he was asked about the mediocrity of his last film, *All About the Benjamins*. "Yeah, there was that *Ghosts of Mars* shit too," he said, readily admitting the questionable quality of his film *CV*.

So Cube knows he's made bad movies—at least two, and likely more (Ananconda, anyone?). What's baffling is that he continues to make them, especially when he's capable of better. He held his own as the Third King alongside George Clooney and Mark Wahlberg, and *Boyz n the Hood* was enough of a cinematic landmark to garner both critical acclaim and a Wayans brothers parody.

Well, *Are We There Yet?* is another one des-

tined for the clearance bin.

Making a bad action movie might be forgivable, but making a decent kids movie can't be that challenging. Farts and a happy ending with a valuable life lesson: can't miss. Are We There Yet? does, though—mostly because it forgets that last part.

Cube plays Nick, an ice-d-out player who attempts to win the affections of single mom Suzanne (Nia Long) by carting her kids from Portland to Vancouver, BC to meet her for New Year's.

Nick doesn't like kids. He likes cars, though, and has just bought a brand new Lincoln Navigator with leather interior that he loves more than life itself. Juice is spilled. Also vomit. "Hilarity" ensues.

Or not. You'd think J David Stern and David Weiss, the writers behind *Shrek 2* and the *Rugrats* TV series, among other things, would have pre-entertainment dialed, but the only thing more noticeably absent than genuine laughs in this movie is the moral value brought up earlier.

Nick, as mentioned previously, is a self-styled gangsta. In addition to the 20-inch rims on his SUV, he's always bejeweled to the nines, and

never without the requisite matching jersey-and-hat ensemble. The kids make fun of his bling. His love interest makes fun of his bling. So, naturally, the movie ends with him renouncing hip-hop materialism once he realizes that things like family really matter, right? No dice. In the tear-jerking final scene, after Suzanne tells him to take a hike despite all his efforts, Nick bids the kids goodbye and gives them each a gold chain necklace, saying, "Now you have your own blingage," thus passing the torch of good ol' American avarice down to the next generation.

At least it appears transparent enough not to be bought. Even in the kid-filled theatre I was in, scoffs of disgust were to be heard.

Why, Ice Cube, why? You captured our hearts when you were only 16 with whimsical tales of 40s and "sawed-offs." Maybe you think that as long as you keep making movies, regardless of quality, you'll remain culturally relevant. There's got to be a better way. You seem to like cars, why not get your own show on MTV in which someone's "ride" is made to look nicer via some kind of "pimping" process? But, if you must insist on continuing to make forgettable movies, try not to corrupt the youth whilst doing it.

## Six degrees of court-ordered separation

### The Woodsman

Directed by Nicole Kassell  
Starring Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick,  
Benjamin Bratt, Mos Def and Eve  
Now Playing

ANDREW ROSS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Bad news, Footloose fans: you will never see Kevin Bacon in the same way again. In *The Woodsman*, Bacon plays Walter, a recently paroled sex offender. Released into society, Walter must deal with the reactions of those who were closest to him while struggling to be normal.

Starting a new life is far from easy for Walter. The people in his life are suspicious of him and he constantly struggles to keep his pedophilic urges at bay. Walter does, however, manage to get himself a girlfriend. Kyra Sedgwick, Bacon's real-life wife, plays Walter's girlfriend Vickie, a woman who has dealt with issues of sexual abuse herself. Their relationship shows the behavior is just how complex sexually abusive behavior is.

The Woodsman deals with its subject matter in a clear and brutal manner. The film focuses on a man coping with disease. Walter is not misunderstood, he was not wrongfully accused and he is not a reformed offender. Rather, Walter is sick and deeply disturbed and the film in no way attempts to gloss over this fact. Instead, we watch Walter tempt himself by being in the presence of



YOU'RE OUT! Kevin Bacon—the world's creepiest dodgeball player—earns a place on the bench.

young girls (in several disturbing scenes) while also trying to put his life back together. It's easy to find Walter disgusting but the film doesn't make us turn away from his character (though we're never fully sympathetic either). Witnessing Walter struggle with his inner demons is repulsive, admirable, and above all unsettling.

Yet the audience is invested in Walter's character, a success you can find even in Bacon's performance. Even if you've found Bacon irritating in the past—his film choices insipid—

you will be impressed by his work in this movie, if only out of respect for his choice to take such a potentially career-crushing role.

But the most admirable aspect of *The Woodsman* is the way the film deals with its subject in terms that neither preach nor panders to its audience. No one needs to be told that pedophilia is morally wrong or that people such as Walter are disturbed. By not wallowing in obvious facts, *The Woodsman* is a much more thoughtful than shocking film.



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## Melissa Majeau's up for an adventure

Local singer-songwriter excited to challenge herself with an upcoming tour of England, Finland and France—and the occasional electric-guitar solo

### Melissa Majeau and The Muse

with John Henry Band and Mark Davis  
Powerplant  
Saturday, 29 January at 8pm

BEN MACIOWSKI  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"I just bought my plane ticket yesterday!" laughs Melissa Majeau, her voice full of excitement. The local musician is busy these days planning for a bit of an adventure—a European tour this April. And though she's thoroughly anticipating the excitement the future has to bring, for now, Majeau and her band The Muse are making the best of their time here in Edmonton and looking back on what they've learned from past performances.

The band is still reeling from its experience on the summer festival circuit last year, which included stops at the North Country Fair as well as The Works.

"We learned that [the festival] lifestyle is very conducive to what we want to do. It was great to just interact with other musicians and just a great way to grow as a band and to spread the music around," says Majeau.

The past year saw the band do more than clock in some time working the summer festivals, however. The group completed their second album, *The Time Has Come*, which has seen heavy rotation on CKUA and CJR. But Majeau's not content to rest with this accomplishment: she has her eyes set on something bigger. Set to leave for Europe in April, Majeau is taking a



brief hiatus from her band and planning not only her first European tour, but her first trip to the continent.

"I've got connections in England, in Finland, as well as in Paris, so I am working with those people to set up stuff. I've got some new material, and I am going to be bringing that over and I am also looking forward to finding new sources of inspiration from the travels and people and landscapes there."

Majeau hasn't yet released her music in Europe, but she's not worried about how she will be received by the public.

"I am more excited to just do it as opposed to what is going to come of it. I've been told that I will be well received from a variety of sources and that is nice to hear, but it doesn't matter because I am going to go regardless of what happens."

Upon her triumphant return sometime in June, Majeau would like to get back together with The Muse and jump into the Edmonton scene. She also anticipates the group will be planning a tour of Canada's east coast for fall 2005.

But before Majeau heads off to Europe, you can see her and the Muse at the Powerplant on Saturday. The group will be playing a rare electric show.

"I'm pulling out my Fender Telecaster—I've only done that once before—and I am going to be taking a couple solos with this show and I've never soloed in public before," Majeau laughs.

There's a first time for everything, though—whether playing electric guitar or touring Europe. And whatever the future holds for Majeau, at least she's got her plane ticket.

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# Speaking in Tongues puts a twist on human relationships

## Speaking in Tongues

Directed by John Hudson  
Starring Coralie Cairns, David Ley,  
Natascha Girgis and Brian Dooley  
Vancouva Theatre  
Now playing until Sunday, 6 February

AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's difficult for a university student to relate to a play about middle-aged couples experiencing mid-life crises, but *Speaking in Tongues*, despite its 40-something focus on the ups and downs of marital relationships, strikes home to any audience by exploring the complexities of all relationships and the connections we forge with others as both friends and strangers.

*Speaking in Tongues*, written by screenwriter and playwright Andrew Bovell (*Strictly Ballroom*), follows two couples and their difficult marriages. Although the play revolves around the couples' marital relationships, it also follows the personal connections they establish between themselves and the world.

Jane (Coralie Cairns) and Pete (David Ley) attempt to cope with their marital problems by secretly search-

ing for momentary companionship through one-night stands. Similarly, Sandra (Natascha Girgis) and Leon (Brian Dooley) seek to escape the alienation of their marriage by doing the same. The separate lives led by the couples soon become intertwined as they emotionally involve themselves in a sort of spousal exchange at a local bar.

The four actors play nine characters all together. The characters are all interrelated, illustrating the broad web of interaction that exists amongst us all. As the play progresses, new bonds are established between strangers, just as old ones are broken between friends.

Director John Hudson does a fine job of staging the separate yet joint worlds the couples live in. He visually divides their realms on stage in order to examine how the characters discover themselves in relation to others.

On either side of the stage, two similar sets are constructed consisting of a table, a bed, and a couch. For the most part, the two sets are identical, yet subtle differences in style are noticeable. The set reflects the similarities exhibited through the couples' relationships while expressing the unique

connections they possess between one another. The set design is simple, but functions exceptionally well by allowing the audience to concentrate more upon the characters and dialogue.

It's obvious, not only through the simplicity of the set but also through wonderful performances, that Hudson emphasizes characterization in this production.

The casting of exceptionally talented actors and their devotion to this characterization create a realistic atmosphere rich with mystery and interspersed with comedic moments. The four actors play their multiple roles with passion and ease despite the complex web of interaction and integration of separate plots. Their ability to step into one character from another allows the audience to view the play's complex web of relationships from many different angles.

Although the play appears to examine only the problems that arise in marriage, it actually explores all relationships in general. Whether it is a friendship or a one-night stand, *Speaking in Tongues* questions the limits of communication and where we place ourselves in the world around us.

# Say Nothing speaks the truth

## Say Nothing

Directed by David Woods and Jon Hough  
Starring David Woods and Jon Hough  
Catalyst Theatre  
Now playing until Sunday, 30 January

VICTOR VARGAS & LEAH COLLINS  
Arts & Entertainment Writers

The comedy *Say Nothing* tackles the political situation of post-Good Friday Northern Ireland, but right now, playwrights/actors David Woods and Jon Hough are concerned with other matters—like the state of the media and the cult of celebrity.

Woods and Hough—founding members of Northern Ireland theatre company Riddiculusus—feel that society is threatened by how the average person knows more about the cast of *Big Brother* than world affairs. "Everyone is bullshitting left, right, and centre," says Woods about the media. "Everyone wants bullet point-form for reading and to judge characters."

While Woods decries the public's mindless appetite for gossip, scandal and paparazzi photos of David Beckham, he still has hope that the future holds some promise for improvement—if only because his and Hough's theatre company refuses to contribute to the "bullshit." "We have our own agenda; the media has

theirs," says Woods. "Theatre is about conflict and both of us have different agendas that allow it to work."

Woods is able to state his opinions with far more freedom than the main character of his play, *Say Nothing* follows a young, Anglo man named Kevin who comes back to his home in Belfast after earning a PhD in peace and conflict studies. Meeting on his return an Orange caretaker and an Anglo landlady—both equally unpleasant individuals—Kevin becomes upset by his situation and his gradual realization of the ugliness of his new life in a post-Good Friday Belfast, where both Catholic and Protestant sides ridiculously claim victory over the other. But anytime he tries to confront the falseness of the world around him, the truth is brushed away by false smiles and even more false hospitality.

Like Kevin, Woods and Hough had a similar aim in writing *Say Nothing*: wanting to snap people out of their delusions. It's hard to say whether they've succeeded, but their play, at least, has picked the attention of theatre-goers around the world. And, as for Woods' opinion of the political situation in Northern Ireland, he's optimistic for the future.

"It's getting better, people are more honest now," he says. "Politically, things are more extreme, but at least they are being honest now."



## Low Millions

Ex-Girlfriends  
Manhattan Records  
www.lowmillions.com

ELIZABETH VAIL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

While the majority of the songs on *Low Millions' Ex-Girlfriends* are mild, bland pop ballads about drippy relationships, shimmering beneath the

band's live-rock exterior is the slimy taint of genuine creepiness.

While the tunes themselves are gentle, if unremarkable, the lyrics push the line between loyal and obsessive. While lead singer Adam Cohen pines for the girls who dumped him, it's uncertain whether he wants them back so that he can reignite their relationship or serve them up with his fava beans and Chianti.

The song "100 Blueses" is a perfect example. In it, a playboy goes on a spree of sexual encounters in a failed attempt to get his mind off of the girl he loves, to the tune of charming lyrics like, "I'll take a friend of yours out to dinner / Then I'll take off her clothes / And look for you in her."

Given attitudes like that, it's no wonder the band was able to dedicate an entire CD to the girls who have dumped them.



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JAMES STORRER  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The minimalist pop outfit Casiotone For The Painfully Alone has always been well-named, focusing as it does on an oeuvre of, well, painfully lonely songs played on Casio keyboards. For the first time in nearly eight years, however, Casiotone's lone member, Owen Ashworth, is dropping the keyboards for good.

"I felt like I'd gotten pretty good with the Casios," says Ashworth. "But it got to the point where it was feeling kind of formulaic. I missed how exciting it was when I first started using these instruments. I felt ready to challenge something new."

The move away from Casios may seem odd considering Ashworth's entire musical career, up to now, has been defined by keyboards. But Ashworth has always been a bit of a mystery. His modest beginning in 1997 stemmed from buzz over a fanzine called *Wyatt Riot*, a bizarre little magazine about Ashworth's (hopefully satirical) obsession with musician and Aslers Set member Wyatt Cusack.

The zine, however, wasn't Ashworth's only project. At the same time, he'd been trying his hand at songwriting.

"I was writing songs for different bands, trying to start a band, but it was always too difficult trying to coordinate people's schedules, egos and record collections," says Ashworth with a quiet chuckle. "I made these

tapes that I basically considered demos using Casio keyboards, and everyone seemed to enjoy those more than the actual band versions."

With a distinct lack of recording equipment, Ashworth recorded on what was available: an answering machine, which later provided the name for his debut release, *Answering Machine Music: A Brief Album In Twelve Parts*. As Ashworth's focus moved to his music, the fanzine stopped, but its replacement was something considered equally bizarre.

**"I felt like I'd gotten pretty good with the Casios. But it got to the point where it was feeling kind of formulaic. I missed how exciting it was when I first started using these instruments."**

OWEN ASHWORTH, CASIOTONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE

*Answering Machine Music* was an unusual album, to say the least. Ashworth's vocals tiptoed around in the form of broken, raspy half-whispers, singing about the girl at the checkout counter he couldn't approach and the secret crushes he couldn't even write songs about (because "they loved his band," he says). The keyboard melodies were sparse, but poignant; it was Casiotone, and it sounded very, very painfully alone.

That's not to say that any of the songs are really about Mr Ashworth, of course.

"I took some elements from my life, some from my friends, from movies I've seen and things I've heard at parties. It was clear to me, listening to the songs I loved, that this was fiction, but it was a sort of universal fiction, something everyone could relate to."

Ashworth kept it up, releasing two more full-length albums—*Pocket Symphonies For Lonely Subway Cars* and *Twinkle Echo*—but two things stuck the whole way through: the keyboards and the loneliness.

"At the time it sounded really fresh and exciting to me, something really accessible, but at the same time snotty and subversive," says Ashworth.

By the time of *Twinkle Echo*, though, it wasn't quite as fresh or as subversive. Ashworth was noticing the redundancy as much as his critics. "I've always been a fan of epilogues," he chuckles. "It definitely felt like time to do something else."

That something else has turned out to be writing complex arrangements with friend and Torilab labelmate Jherek Bischoff, arrangements that Ashworth himself can't even play.

"I'm actually trying to play on it as little as possible," he laughs. "The crummy thing about it is that I can't play a single one of these songs by myself."

Ashworth's music is, at the moment, very much in a state of flux, and he has no idea how the recorded material will turn out, let alone his upcoming live performances in Edmonton and Calgary. But for the first time in nearly four years, the keyboards, at least, are getting some rest.

"I feel I've come a long way with these Casios," says Ashworth. "Most of them are packed away in suitcases now and I'm working on other things, but it was a great challenge while it lasted."

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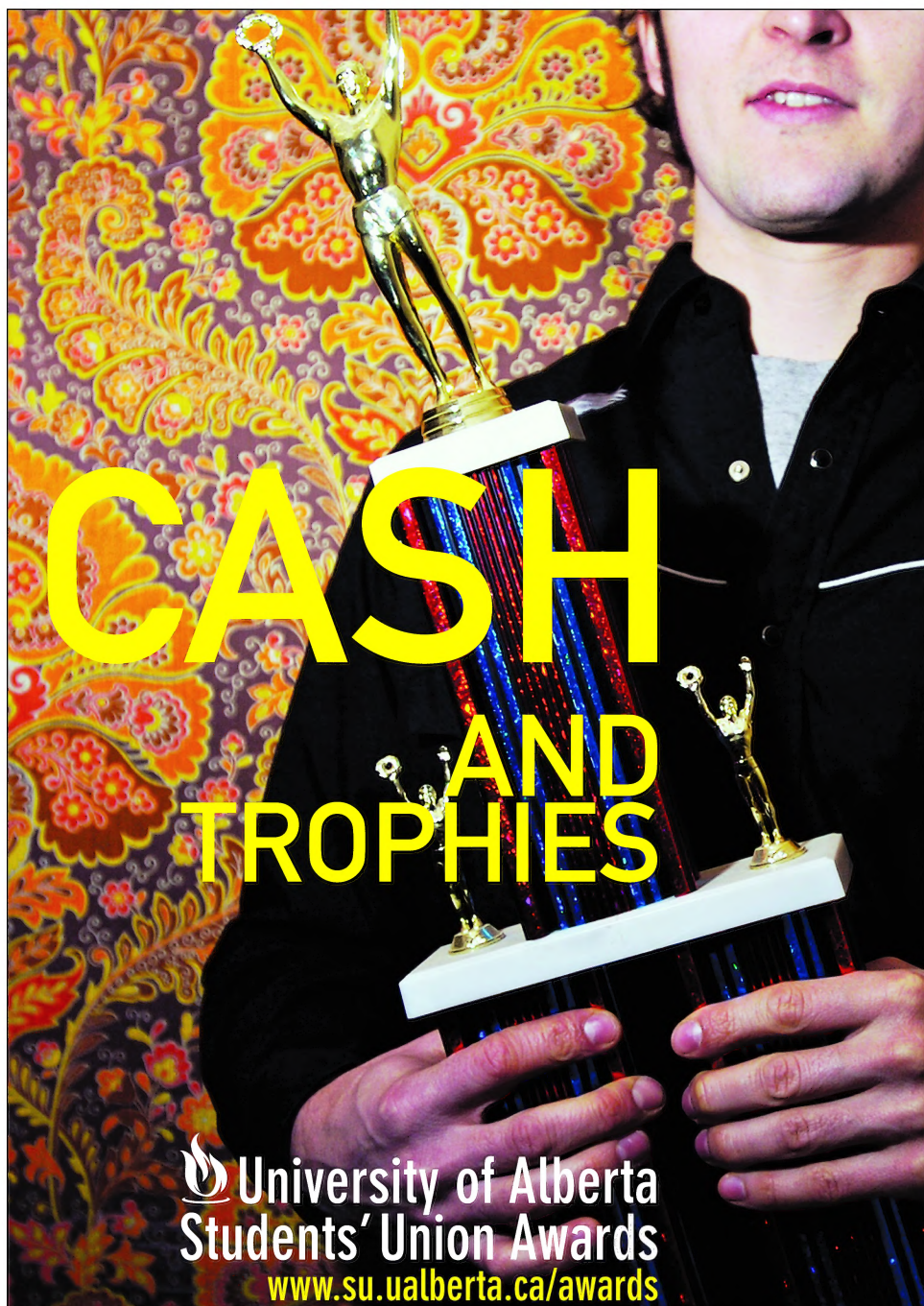
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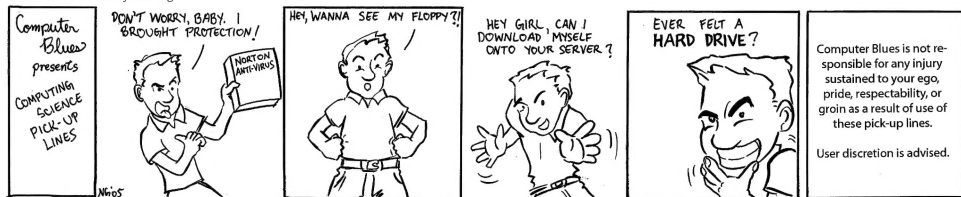
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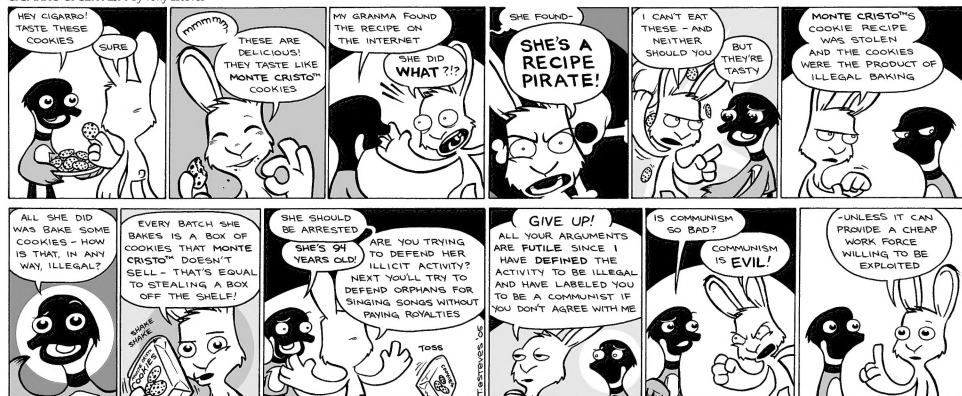
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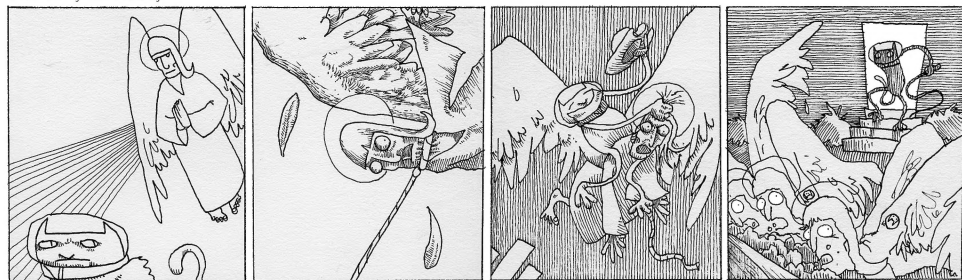
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